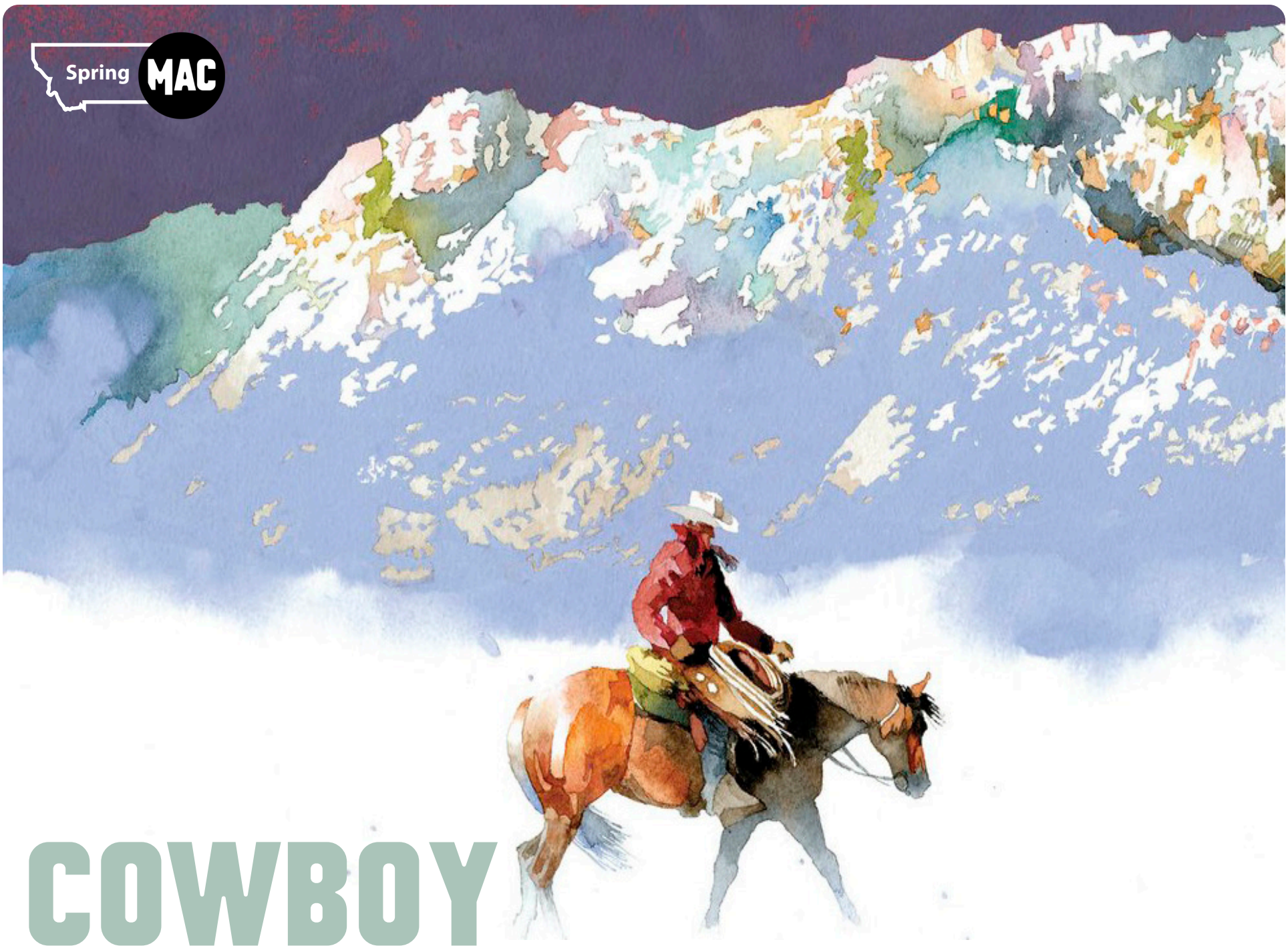
STATE OF THE ARTS

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

By Taylor Burby

Montana Poets and Musicians Perform at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Every January, the Western Folklife Center hosts the week-long National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. This year marked its 40th anniversary, celebrating the spoken word, music, and traditions of the American West.

Notable poets included Henry Real Bird of Garryowen—a Crow speaker, former Montana poet laureate, and recipient of the Montana Circle of American Masters award—as well as D.W. Groethe of Bainville, a ranch hand, poet, and songwriter known for his distinctive blend of humor and lyricism. Both were honored for their decades of participation with portraits in the Folklife Center. Sandy Seaton Sallee of Paradise Valley shared poetry about life as a mountain horsewoman just outside Yellowstone, while M.L. Smoker, a Nakoda, Dakota, and Lakota poet from Wolf Point and former Montana poet laureate, explored themes of Indigenous identity and language.

Musical highlights included Brigid & Johnny Reedy of Whitehall and Wylie & the Wild West of Conrad, the celebrated band led by Wylie Gustafson for over three decades, known for their dynamic approach to cowboy, western, and traditional country music.

For more information, visit the Western Folklife Center's website.

Art courtesy of National Cowboy Poetry Gathering website.

INSIDE

The Montana Arts Council welcomes four new artists into the illustrious Montana Circle of American Masters.

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Remembering Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (1940-2025)

Read more, page 28

Krys Holmes
Executive Director
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Spring storm on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front near Augusta.

Photo by Eric Heidle

Restore, renew, remember, repeat.

from the director

Spring is a mess. Black snow piles everywhere, branches down, driveway full of road sand, bird feeder wrecked by windstorms, the crows in my trees look bar-fight bedraggled.

Nobody knows restoration and renewal better than mother Nature, who is always at it, reviving and wiping out, starting again—not just in spring but always.

Eggs in a nest tipped by the wind and lost; whole neighborhoods flattened by tornado. Ruin and restoration, grief and growth; these are the warp and weft of life, our fierce companions and greatest teachers. Make whatever metaphors may suit you about our nation right now – do you believe we're in a constitutional eruption or a brief period of pruning and renewal? Either way, our need for art is the same.

We know that creating is a twin process of discovering and remembering. In trying, tearing apart, trying again, we discover a new way, a new melody, a fresh expression. And when we get to that new thing, if it is good and true, it's like remembering ourselves. We return and recommit to co-creating the world we live in. We are singing our world to life.

It's even happening with this issue of *State of the Arts*. We've torn up the layout, refreshed the design, moved some things around, and generally made creative mayhem that we hope will make this quarterly newspaper feel fresh, read more easily, and help you find what you most want to know. It's been a collaborative effort between our staff and the good folks at Buffalo Jump Design, our editorial and design partners. And since creation is a process of drafts and revisions, we'll continue to tweak things in upcoming issues. Last year a huge percentage of survey respondents asked the Arts Council to please continue *State of the Arts* as a print newspaper. We thought that broad support deserved a design refresh. (It's still, and always, available online at **art.mt.gov/soa**)

As I write this, the world outside my window is not storming. In fact it is a spring of slow, deep heat. Buds are popping out that might just freeze next week, or burn up three months from now—or they may just come to bloom. Spring is sketching for a summer that has not yet arrived. This is the work of art and culture, too: to help envision a path ahead that we can't see yet. Whenever our world is shaken apart, through cataclysm or the natural shift of seasons, our songs and stories hold us together. Art and culture don't provide blueprints or rule books; they are the torches that light the path along our shared journey as humans.

Whether you're a painter, composer, librarian, or lawmaker, your own song is an important part of this journey. What you create matters. The mud, the worms, the mold, the reprobate crows: spring's renewal needs all of them. The renewal of the world needs you.

Have faith in your voice. Stay awake. Keep working.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Submissions Welcome!

State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases, and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.
Next deadline: May 15 for the Summer issue (July-September).

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

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"Equinox" by Monte Dolack

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Old Growth by Jess Lee in the background

Spring's CREATIVE REBIRTH

Montana Artists Explore New Beginnings

Spring *from the series* ***Four Seasons*** by Wendy Red Star

by Tracy Sullivan

Spring evokes powerful themes of rebirth and renewal, offering a fresh start after the harshness of winter. In Montana, where nature's beauty and the creativity of its people are deeply intertwined, the season holds special meaning. For local artists, spring is not only a time of natural transformation but also an inspiration to explore themes of growth, change, and hope through their craft. Whether through painting, literature, sculpture, photography, or performance, Montana's artists capture the essence of this transformative season, reflecting its symbolism of regeneration and the endless possibility of renewal.

Nature as a Metaphor for Rebirth

In Montana, spring represents more than just a change in weather—it symbolizes the potential for new beginnings. For visual artists, such as those who paint the state's stunning landscapes, spring contrasts the barren snowfields with vibrant meadows that emerge from the thaw. The blooming snowdrops,

Sweetgrass, Spring Evening by Russell Chatham

crocuses, and budding trees reflect the triumph of life after adversity, serving as metaphors for resilience and hope after periods of struggle.

Artists like **Russell Chatham**, renowned for his evocative depictions of Montana's landscapes, capture the gradual transition from winter's bleakness to the soft hues of spring. His works highlight the cyclical nature of the seasons, portraying Montana's landscapes—often quiet and harsh—where renewal happens slowly, yet with undeniable certainty.

Contemporary artist **Wendy Red Star** also explores themes of transformation, blending indigenous traditions with modern practices. Her series *Four Seasons* uses humor and parody to challenge stereotypical portrayals of Native American identity, especially that of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Tribe. By placing herself in exaggerated, artificial environments—made of inflatable animals and plastic plants—Red Star critiques how cultural representations are often constructed. Through this lens, she reclaims Native American identity as dynamic and evolving, not confined to outdated stereotypes. Her work reimagines the "natural" world, highlighting the cyclical process of self-definition and the ongoing rebirth of identity.

Resilience and Rebirth in Literature

Montana's literary tradition frequently uses spring as a metaphor for emotional and psychological renewal. Authors like **Ivan Doig** and **Rick Bass** have explored the state's landscapes not only as backdrops but as integral to the personal growth of their characters.

In *The Whistling Season*, Doig uses the changing seasons as a framework for his characters' journeys. Spring, for his protagonists, represents a fresh start—a time for healing and adaptation after hardship. Similarly, in *The Sky, the Stars, and the Wilderness*, Bass ties the physical transformation of nature to the inner renewal of his characters. In his stories, spring is more than a thawing of snow; it is a time when characters shed emotional burdens, much like the earth sheds the weight of winter.

Tidbits by Jennifer Pulchinski

Sculpting New Beginnings

For many Montana sculptors, spring's themes of growth and renewal come to life in their works through organic forms. **Jennifer Pulchinski**, a Bozeman-based artist, transforms reclaimed barbed wire into sculptures that symbolize transformation. Her creative journey began with a serendipitous encounter with discarded wire in a field, where she saw in it a representation of both confinement and potential. In works like *Tidbits*, the fluidity of wire contrasts with its rigid origins, reflecting themes of change and possibility.

Pulchinski reimagines these materials, capturing the energy of natural forces and the promise of rebirth.

Capturing Renewal Through the Lens

Spring also inspires Montana's photographers, who seek to capture the fleeting beauty of the season. **Jess Lee**, a renowned wildlife photographer, expertly showcases the revitalizing power of spring in his work. Photographs like *Kissing Cow and Calf Elk* depict the awakening of wildlife as new life emerges across the landscape. Lee's passion for conservation shines through, as he reminds us of the vital connection between wildlife and nature's cycles of renewal. His photographs highlight both the beauty of Montana's rebirth each spring and the importance of preserving these ecosystems for future generations.

Performance and Music: Awakening Through Art

Montana has produced several musicians who explore themes of nature, renewal, and self-reflection in their work. **Tim Montana**, a native of Butte, blends rock and country influences in his music. His 2024 album *Savage* delves into personal transformation and resilience, with the title track reflecting on overcoming adversity and emerging stronger—mirroring the renewal found in spring.

Based in Missoula, Montana, **The Lil Smokies** are an Americana/bluegrass band known for their poetic lyrics. Their songs often reflect on themes of nature, personal growth, and the cycle of life, aligning with the idea of renewal and rebirth. Their song *Out of the Woods* is a great representation of themes of overcoming hardship and emerging into something new, much like the rebirth associated with spring.

These musicians convey the emotional complexity of spring—from quiet reflection to the exuberance of life's resurgence—enriching Montana's rich artistic tapestry.

Recent albums by Tim Montana & The Lil Smokies

Embodying Renewal Through Dance

Montana Ballet Company embraces spring's symbolism in their performances, interpreting the themes of growth and personal evolution through graceful movement. The dancers embody the awakening of the earth and its inhabitants, reminding us that, like the natural world, we too have the power to regenerate and bloom.

Kissing Cow and Calf Elk by Jess Lee

A Celebration of Montana's Artistic Rebirth

For the artists of Montana, spring is more than a season—it's a celebration of life's resilience and beauty. Through their work, they offer reflections on growth, transformation, and the ever-present possibility of rebirth. Whether through painting, literature, sculpture, photography, or performance, they capture the essence of spring's symbolism, inviting us to embrace the energy of renewal, not only in nature but also in our own lives.

As the snow melts and days lengthen, we are reminded that, like the land, we too are always capable of starting anew.

Montana's artists continue to inspire us, showing that with each season, there is always the potential for transformation.

Photo courtesy of Montana Ballet Company website

Superbloom

by Chris La Tray

Leave it to the flowers
to show us how the world
celebrates the arrival of spring.

Like the desert,
who surges with color
at the return of the sun,

alluvial hues
flooding the thirsty plain
of a fever's dream.

Do you greet the arriving season,
each and every season,
as you would this long lost friend?

Or even as the lover
you return to, again and again,
knowing that for all the blush

they are destined to become
the one you most look forward
to moving on from?

You part, the wheel turns,
the moons rise and fall,
and then, here they are again,

renewed at your doorstep,
aglow with fresh light,
and oh, how you've missed each other.

Photo by Tracy Sullivan

"Lewis and Seaman — First View of the Rockies" by Frank D. Hagel

IN MEMORY OF FRANK D. HAGEL

Kalispell artist Frank D. Hagel, 90, died October 7, 2024, at Logan Health.

Frank was born at the family home in Kalispell on December 20, 1933, as the third and youngest child of Fred A. and Winona A. (Popham) Hagel. He attended Kalispell schools. As a 15-year-old, he worked as a construction helper to German stonemasons building retaining walls along the Going-to-the-Sun Highway in Glacier National Park. After graduating from Flathead High School in 1951, Frank joined the United States Navy and served a four-year tour of duty, which included stints in Hawaii and Japan. Following his honorable discharge, Frank was accepted to the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He completed the four-year program in three years by attending summer sessions.

After graduating from Art Center, Frank made a career as a commercial illustrator in Detroit, Michigan, beginning in 1959, where he won two Silver Art Director Medals for Excellence for his work. However, he wanted his sons to be raised in Montana. He was able to permanently relocate with his family back to Kalispell, Montana in 1971, where he built two homes on the banks of the Flathead River and spent the rest of his life working as a fine artist, painting and sculpting wildlife and western historical subjects. In 1972, as part of the centennial of Yellowstone National Park, he was commissioned by the National Park Service to sculpt 37 medallions that were cast in bronze and silver, commemorating all of the national parks. For the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, he completed a corporate commission of more than a dozen large paintings, three of which appeared in Smithsonian magazine's coverage of the expedition. Throughout his career, his work was featured in numerous publications, including Southwest Art and a recent issue of Flathead Living. He was represented by art galleries in Montana, Arizona and Florida, and he participated in 50 prestigious C.M. Russell Art Auctions in Great Falls. He was always known as a generous mentor to other artists.

Frank loved his family and was fortunate to have the love of three wives during the course of his life. He married Ethel Irene Houston of Kalispell, the mother of his three sons, in 1954. Ethel died in 1967 in Detroit. In 1969, he married Rita Siry, who died in Kalispell in 2000. Frank was married to Sara Porter Walsh in 2003 on the Big Island of Hawaii, and they returned to the Big Island every winter. Frank spent many days in the wilds of Montana, and he and Sara split their time in recent years between Kalispell and Sara's adopted hometown of Augusta, Montana, which Frank came to love as well. Frank and Sara also traveled to other parts of the world during the past 20 years, including trips to Europe, Mexico and New Zealand.

Frank was an avid hunter and fisherman, and his adventures included horse-packing trips in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, bird hunting trips near Augusta and Conrad, and fishing throughout Montana, Idaho and Alaska. He also loved golf and his many friends at Buffalo Hill Golf Club.

A celebration of life is being planned at a later date.

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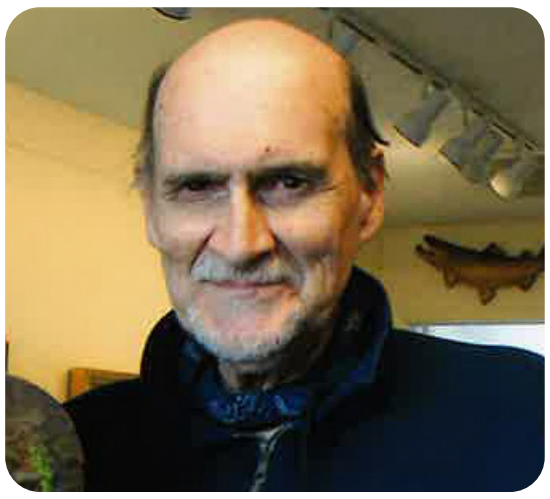


IN RECOGNITION OF HELENA ARTIST JIM STEVENS

By Louis Archambault, Helena artist

We've been both friends and art buddies for many years. Jim is perhaps one of the best kept secrets in Montana's art world. Jim's focus was always on painting, to express his thoughts and feelings in oil paint, period. And how prolific and successful he was—over 80 oil paintings and all sold or donated!

Raised in Bozeman, his love for the outdoors often shows in his paintings. Up until recently, if not painting in his frame shop/gallery, Jim was most likely out fishing or hunting.

When I would drop by his "Country Frames and Art Gallery" to purchase a custom frame or to get a critique on a painting I was working on, inevitably the conversation would turn to where the best fishing was, or stories of past fishing or big game adventures. Jim become known in Helena through the many art classes he taught, sales through the Ghost Art Gallery - Helena, but mostly from the 'quick draw donations' he would paint for many many nonprofits in town. Jim is best known for his still life oil paintings, and in my opinion, they are the best produced in Montana in recent history. His meticulous attention to detail, dramatic lighting, and old-world feel harken back to the old masters.

Now retired, Jim deserves recognition for his contributions to Montana's art scene... have a Happy Retirement!

Still life oil painting by Jim Stevens

ZACC HIRES SARAH JUSTICE AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Zootown Arts Community Center's new executive director, Sarah Justice, comes to the nonprofit's leadership role with experience as a studio artist, business owner, arts educator and, mostly recently, as executive director of the nonprofit Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls, a position she held for seven years.

Justice said the ZACC is "a rare arts community center" situated in a city that has a thriving arts scene.

"The closest community art center which aligns with ZACC is the Emerson in Bozeman, so it is truly one of a kind in this part of Montana," and fit in her wheelhouse personally and professionally, she said.

Justice lived in Missoula before, too, earning her Master of Fine Art degree from the University of Montana. Before that, she graduated with a bachelor's in ceramic sculpture from Georgia State University in Atlanta, and an associate's in interior design from Bauder College, also in Atlanta.

***Train* by Jim Stevens**

HIDDEN TREASURE IN MONTANA

MAPS Media Institute

Story by Jeffrey Conger

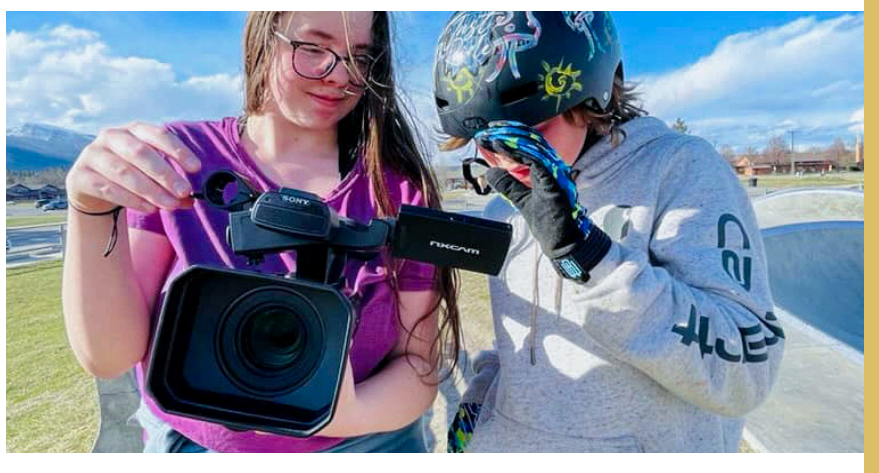
MAPS is a creative powerhouse! Celebrating its 20th year in Montana as a dynamic educational non-profit media institute fostering the vision of Treasure State youth. Established in 2004, MAPS was initially known as the "Media Arts in the Public Schools" program and now offers year-round classes, at studios first in Ravalli County (Hamilton), then in Lewis & Clark County (Helena), and most recently opening doors in Fort Belknap (Harlem) community.

The free MAPS programs serve ages 13 to 18, with workshops for young adults 18 to 24. The three locations across Montana create an effective hands-on learning environment for youth to explore new technical skills to be successful in filmmaking, graphic design, music production, photojournalism, and podcasts. MAPS focuses on essential communication and storytelling skills, helping students explore future opportunities, pursuing post-secondary education, starting a business, or contributing to their local community.

While MAPS programs are open to everyone, its rural roots often serve students from low-income families and Indigenous communities across Montana. The engaging programs are offered during the 32-week after-school program, a 6-week summer program, and a 2-week traveling program. The MAPS programs focus on technical proficiency and creative skills while also fostering workforce readiness, time management, leadership, and marketing expertise. All the curriculum is designed by licensed educators and taught by professional artists, aligning with state and national standards.

Through a proven record of education and outreach to the state, MAPS has earned numerous accolades for its impact on youth education and media arts. These include the prestigious 2023 Governor's Arts Award and the 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Recently, student projects won the 2023 Short Form Nonfiction Regional Student Production Award and the 2022 Long Form Nonfiction Regional Student Production Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

So, please take the time and learn more about MAPS Media Institute and its free programs at mapsmediainstitute.com, or contact the administrative office in Hamilton, MT, at (406) 381-7230 or director@mapsmediainstitute.com.



The MAPS Media Institute opened its doors in 2004. Now celebrating its 20th year, it still holds the foundational goals bestowed in its original name, "Media Arts in Public Schools." MAPS now has locations in three Montana communities along with a traveling Media Lab program.

Photos courtesy of MAPS Media Institute

MONTANA POETRY OUT LOUD CROWNS ITS 2025 CHAMPIONS

2025 Poetry Out Loud Finalists and Alternates

Story and photos by Eric Heidle

Among the rites of almost-spring in Montana is an annual gathering at Helena's Grandstreet Theatre in early March, where high school students from across the state meet to recite in our Poetry Out Loud Finals.

This year was no different, and following three rounds of intense performances, Whitefish senior **Jake Dunker emerged as Montana's 2025 state champion.** Reciting "NUMBERS" by Mary Cornish and "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley in the Finals' opening rounds, Jake sealed his victory in the championship round with a pitch-perfect rendition of "Listening in Deep Space," by Diane Thiel.

Competitors in Poetry Out Loud, now in its 20th year, choose contemporary and historic poems from among 1500 options and recite them from memory while being judged on accuracy, interpretation, physical presence, evidence of understanding, voice and articulation, and overall performance. A program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation and locally administered by the Montana Arts Council, the competition combines preparation, interpretation, and concentration.

In his winning run, Jake exhibited all three skills. But in addition to his talents at the finals, Jake is an active member of the Whitefish community, participating in numerous clubs and outreach programs such as the National Honor Society, Lions Club, and the North Valley Food Bank. He's also been involved in academic competitions such as speech and debate, DECA, HOSA, and Science Olympiad.

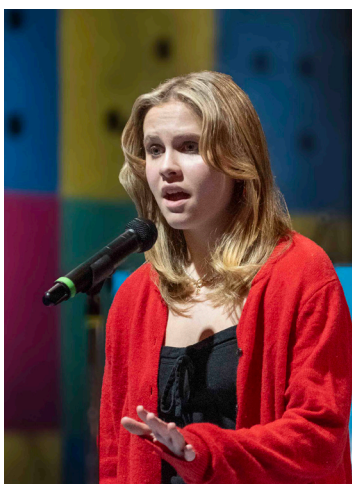
In part because of that busy schedule and his prior commitment to take AP tests, Jake made the difficult decision not to make the trip to Washington, DC for the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in early May. That means that this year's **runner-up, Eva Murray**, will go in his stead. Eva, a sophomore at Anaconda Jr/Sr High School, finished second in the Finals with "An Apology For Her Poetry" by Duchess of Newcastle Margaret Cavendish, "Water of the womb" by Tianna Bratcher and "Golden Hour" by Kimberly Casey. At the National Finals, Eva will compete for the top prize of $20,000 against students from every US state and territory.

Third-place finisher Megan Donnelly is from Butte, Montana and has always loved performing in front of a crowd. She's been appearing in plays since second grade, when she began acting in local theater productions. Megan joined the Speech and Debate team in high school and has sought out other opportunities to be in front of crowds, whether it's for her to act, sing, or compete in debate. She recited "Mr. Darcy" by Victoria Chang, "Enough" by Suzanne Buffam, and "Learning to Read" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

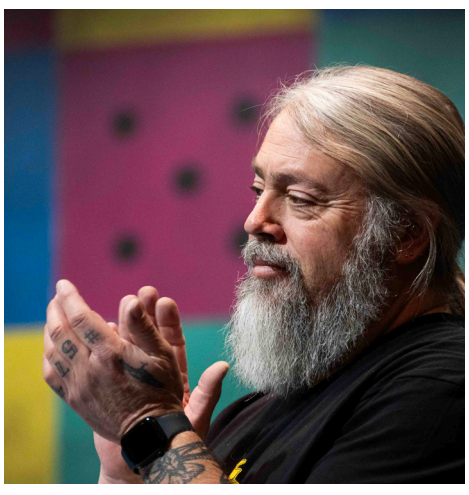
The competition was **judged by an all-star panel** of literary lights including former Montana Poet Laureate **Mark Gibbons**, University of Providence **Professor Aaron Parrett**, Great Falls poet **Kaisa Edy**, and **Riley O'Toole** of Montana Shakespeare In The Parks. Current **Poet Laureate Chris La Tray** made remarks before the competition, along with Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Mikey Gray and MAC Executive Director Krys Holmes.

On Friday, all finalists and alternates participated in writing and visual arts workshops at the Holter Museum of Art, learning watercolor techniques to combine with written poetry and other skills related to the competition. Workshops were led by University of Montana MFA candidates Sam Bovard and Celia Easton Koehler, and Anna Lund, the Holter's Education Director. The workshops were followed by a poetry slam in which students had the chance to practice reciting by sharing their own work.

Jake Dunker, Montana's 2025 state champion.



Eva Murray, Runner-up state champion.



Poet Laureate Chris La Tray

Montanans of all ages are invited to congratulate all of our Poetry Out Loud competitors and cheer Eva on as she competes in next month's National Finals, which will be broadcast on May 5 - 7 via the National Endowment for the Arts website: https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/poetry-out-loud

IGNITE: ARTS INTEGRATION CONFERENCE

June 19 & 20 UM Campus

by Sienna Clayborn and Karen Kaufmann

SPARK! Arts is proud to announce its upcoming summer conference, designed to provide high-quality professional development in arts integration for educators with the guidance of the nation's top leaders. Aligned with SPARK! Arts' mission of ensuring equity and access to the arts, **the event will be accessible to all educators at no charge.**

The conference is intentionally designed to re-inspire and reconnect teachers to the field of education. Participants will leave with tangible, implementable strategies that immediately integrate the arts into their teaching practice. In light of rising teacher burnout, this conference aspires to elevate teaching and learning by embedding the arts into education, cultivating innovative practices, and fostering a sense of joy for both educators and students.

In respect to SPARK! Arts' ten-year anniversary, this conference headlines the partnership with the Washington Foundation by honoring Mrs. Washington for her far-reaching vision of the value of the arts in education, her commitment to excellence through forging a partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and ensuring that children have access to a rich, thriving arts education.

The conference is expected to host 350 educators, each gaining strategies and resources to enhance their teaching practice. With an average classroom size of 20 students, the potential reach of this professional development effort is 7,000 students in just one school year. By equipping teachers with innovative arts integration tools, the conference aims to transform learning experiences and improve student engagement and well-being on a large scale. Promotion of the conference will be throughout the nation, focusing primarily (but not limited to) Montana educators, including those who work in rural communities and/or on reservations.

This conference is a one-time event, funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, with additional support from Missoula County Public Schools, Montana Arts Council, and multiple business sponsorships.

With an aim to spark imagination, ignite innovation, and excite and transform learning, the conference objectives are designed to Inspire educators by reigniting passion for teaching by celebrating the transformative power of arts integration.

Support diverse needs by offering sessions addressing all curriculum areas, leadership development, special education, English language learners, and behavioral and mental health.

Promote equity with accessibility for all educators, fostering inclusive learning environments.

Empower teachers by providing actionable strategies to enhance classroom engagement and support students' creative expression.

SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning is a collective-impact initiative of the Kennedy Center and works in collaboration with local artists, arts organizations, business and community leaders, the City of Missoula, Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS), parents, philanthropists, and the University of Montana to ensure equity and access to a comprehensive arts education ecosystem for all MCPS students. The Conference Planning Committee has consisted of these collaborative partners, as well as national presenters.

Presenters are being finalized and those scheduled include four of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' most engaging presenters. **SEAN LAYNE** is founder of a national arts education consulting company called Focus 5 Inc., a company focused on arts integration across the curriculum for grades Pre K-12.

For 20 years, Kennedy Center Teaching Artist, **BABA BOMANI** has used his experience as a producer and MC to teach arts-integrated workshops, residencies, assemblies, and professional development with his curriculum, BARS. Baba uses his life experiences, mixed with his musical and poetic skills, to paint lyrical pictures of life as he sees it and the future as he envisions it.

Poet, Imagination Activist and Kennedy Center Teaching Artist **GLENIS REDMOND** extends her educational reach into the classroom, where she teaches both students and teachers to open to their own poetry within. The First Poet Laureate of Greenville, South Carolina and a Cave Canem alumni, she has authored six books of poetry.

MARCIA DAFT, a national workshop presenter for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, is the Founder of Moving Through Math and Teaching the Music of Language arts integration programs for STEAM education.

This is not the first time SPARK! Arts has hosted a conference focused on arts integration. Sienna Clayborn, Executive Director of SPARK! Arts, explains: "We have held two conferences before with an emphasis on arts integration. Unlike the previous conferences, we are bringing in nine nationally renowned and well-known presenters to share their arts integration strategies and knowledge. These presenters are either on the Kennedy Center roster and/or are with Focus 5, Inc, which means they have dedicated their lives to perfect their art form and ways to integrate into the curriculum. We are also contracting with Art Heals from the University of Oregon and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, as well as Creative Generation based in Maine. Our local teaching artists will be providing MakerSpaces for participants to experience a variety of art forms, and our local classroom teachers will be spotlighted, sharing stories about their use of arts integration in the classroom."

The staff and board of SPARK! Arts hopes that this conference will attract out-of-the-box, flexible Montana educators, who will take the tangible arts integration strategies they receive at this conference and incorporate them in their instructional practices. The arts integration training that will be provided at this conference has the ability to transform teachers' instruction and bring the joy back to teaching and learning in Montana.

SPARK! Arts Ignite Learning is looking forward to engaging with educators serving in a wide range of roles at this exciting upcoming conference in June. To register and learn more, visit https://whova.com/web/HhNMJpacv%402Js9JIFPIV3tYGkFce8AORGli8rA-ziMM%3D/

IGNITE
ARTS INTEGRATION
CONFERENCE

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL: AN UPDATE

On March 14th, Congress passed a continuing resolution and extension act, averting a government shutdown and maintaining funding for most federal agencies at FY2024 levels through Sept. 30. This includes funding for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and for the Humanities (NEH) at their current level of $207 million each (pending confirmation).

While the resolution does fund agencies for another six months, there are no guardrails to require the President to use the funds as directed by Congress. (This is known as impoundment, when the President uses the funds for other purposes or withholds funds altogether.)

Though the President's executive orders have threatened Voice of America and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (which funds most state libraries), there is no sign of immediate threat to the NEA. The agency continues its daily work, and is involved in a number of White House task forces, including America 250.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE NEA TO MONTANA?

The NEA provides 47% of MAC's funding, at just over $1 million per year, which translates into grants and programs that serve and support activities in nearly every county. The NEA also makes direct grants to Montana arts nonprofits; these totaled $376,000 in FY2024.

This $1.3 million—plus $1.1 million in state investment—works like the pilot light on a stove, igniting and instigating arts activities all over the state. It puts gas in the tank for statewide programs like Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Missoula Children's Theater, and Art Mobile of Montana. It brings teaching artists into schools, libraries, and communities. And it supports great work in theaters, museums, studios, and performing arts centers across the land. Without the NEA many of the arts activities you value, including the newspaper you're reading now, would not be possible.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL FY2023 GRANTS AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FY2024 GRANTS

WHY DO WE NEED PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS?

Public funding, on average, makes up only 4% to 9% of an arts organization's budget. Generally, the smaller or more remote the business, the bigger role public funding plays. The other 91% to 96% comes from support and investment from communities through fundraisers, private foundation grants, and ticket sales. Public funding affirms that a community's private investment in the arts is of value, and is worth supporting for the betterment of America.

Public funding makes arts experiences accessible to all, regardless of geography or physical ability. Without public funding, arts activities would mostly be available in moneyed, more urban areas where people and capital are more concentrated.

Unlike most federally supported programs, arts and culture return a five-fold benefit to Montana: boosting economic productivity; improving educational outcomes; facilitating better health and mental health; enhancing community livability; and preserving Montana's cherished heritage and traditions.

WHAT'S CHANGING AT MAC?

We have started a small pilot **Arts in Health** program, in collaboration with Montana DPHHS and the Central Montana Medical Center in Lewistown. Diabetes nutritionist Pattie Carr, who is a former professional dancer, is teaching jazz dance classes for diabetic and cardiovascular patients to infuse joy and movement into patients' treatment plans.

The **Montana Artrepreneur Program** (MAP) has paused for a year for a much-needed update and redesign. Meanwhile we will offer a menu of professional development opportunities for artists and arts nonprofits—both in-person and virtual—to help strengthen the creative industries.

We received $237,000 in requests for the **Artists in Schools & Communities** residency grants in March. With $185,000 in the grant budget, the review panel will have some hard choices to make as they consider these excellent applications. These grants bring hands-on learning experiences into schools and community spaces statewide, and increasingly fill in where arts education in public schools are getting cut.

Demand is also mounting for **Strategic Investment Grants** (SIG), which are small, quick-turnaround grants for artists, arts organizations, and community groups to fund opportunities, equipment, and one-

time projects. This year's entire SIG grant fund was exhausted in the first five months. Applications will reopen soon for projects that start after the new fiscal year, July 1.

The **Cultural and Aesthetic Trust** (C&A) grants, which support dozens of arts nonprofits across the state, met some headwinds in the legislature this session. These grants are funded each biennium with 0.6% of the earnings from the Montana Coal Tax Trust Fund, and are legislatively approved through HB9. At press time the fate of HB9 was still being determined.

Meanwhile, the staff recently launched a free bi-weekly e-newsletter called **ARTeries** to keep readers posted on news, opportunities, deadlines, and links to more information.

To subscribe, go to **art.mt.gov/enews**.

The Arts Council is dedicated to making the most effective use of resources to support, expand, and celebrate arts and culture work in as many ways as possible. We know how important grants and programs are to artists and arts organizations statewide. We know the struggles and hopes our constituents carry. MAC's goal is to keep creative and culture workers across Montana informed, energized, inspired and supported.

TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

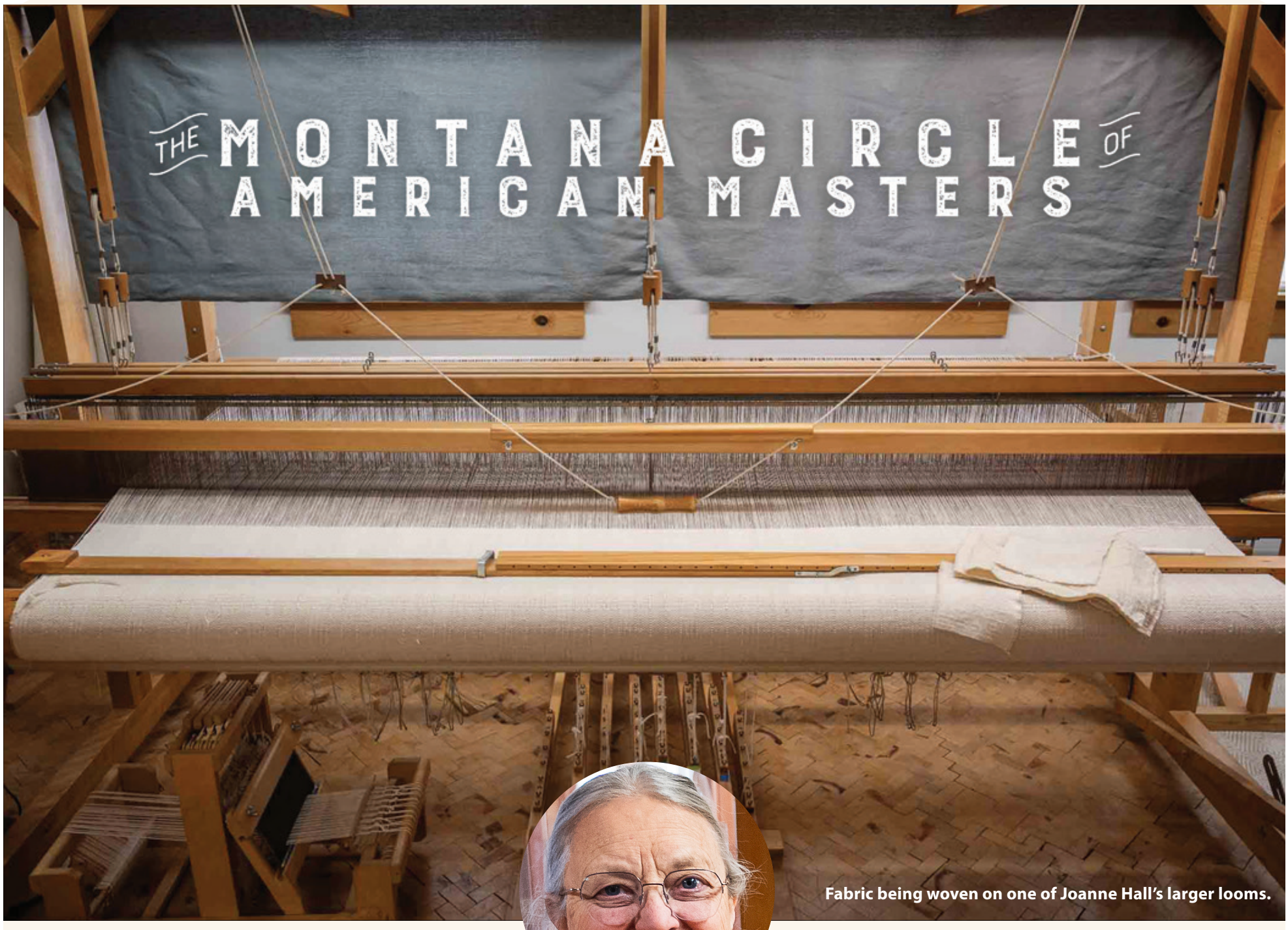
OPENS APRIL 15

Many traditional artists struggle to offer apprenticeships to pass on their artforms. Profit margins are slim, and materials get more expensive all the time. Studio space, like housing, is unaffordable and hard to find. Young people are moving out of rural communities or seem disinterested in the "old ways". Despite all these challenges, artists like beadworkers, saddle makers, Métis fiddlers, and weavers know the importance of their work and are eager to share their knowledge.

One way that the Montana Arts Council can help accomplished artists teach their craft is through the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP). TAAP awards mentor artists $3000 to help make apprenticeships possible. This funding can offset some of the costs of taking on an apprentice, such as travel, equipment and materials, and space rental. In 2024, two mentor-apprentice pairs received funding, and in 2025 we are hoping to support more artists and more artforms across the state.

The application process will open April 15th and we'll be accepting submissions until June 16th. Montana Arts Council staff is happy to provide support with the application process and make it as painless as possible. If you are interested in applying, or have questions, please reach out to Brian Moody at 406-444-4700 or via email at brian.moody2@mt.gov. You can also visit https://art.mt.gov/taap

THE MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS



Fabric being woven on one of Joanne Hall's larger looms.

"MCAM shines a light on Montanans who are among the best in the world in their art form and who are a vital part of Montana's heritage and cultural landscape."

—Montana Arts Council Folklorist
Taylor Burby

The Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) recognizes Montana folk and traditional artists for artistic excellence in their work, along with their role in preserving and passing on their knowledge. This year, the Montana Arts Council welcomed four new additions to the Circle: blacksmith Jeffrey Funk, weaver Joanne Hall, cowboy poet Henry Real Bird, and native lifeways and tools instructor Tim Ryan. Funk, Hall, Real Bird and Ryan join 52 previous honorees in an illustrious group that represents some of the most skilled and respected tradition bearers in Montana.

JOANNE HALL, WEAVING

TIM RYAN, NATIVE LIFEWAYS & TOOLS

HENRY REAL BIRD, COWBOY POETRY

JEFFREY FUNK, BLACKSMITHING

The folk and traditional arts are rooted in a community (ethnic, geographic, linguistic, religious, occupational) or family. They reflect the aesthetics and values of the community in which they arise and are often symbols of a group's identity. The skills of producing the artwork are often taught person-to-person, and a practitioner's craft exists as part of a lineage and tradition which extends well beyond their own career. As such, MCAM honorees are expected to not only display artistic mastery but also show a commitment to passing on their knowledge. Join us in welcoming Jeffrey Funk, Joanne Hall, Henry Real Bird, and Tim Ryan to the Montana Circle of American Masters.

Let's meet the inductees!

TRADITIONAL ARTS RENEWED

Photos courtesy of Taylor Burby.

Montana Arts Council Welcomes New Inductees into the Montana Circle of American Masters

By Taylor Burby

JEFFREY FUNK, BLACKSMITHING

Jeffrey Funk has played an instrumental role in the blacksmithing revival in the United States, helping to sustain and evolve a craft that had nearly vanished by the mid-20th century. Historically, iron technology was the domain of blacksmiths, who made essential repairs and steel tools for woodworking, among other tasks, but industrialization rendered the village blacksmith obsolete by the mid-20th century. Interested in blacksmithing as it aligned with the back-to-the-land movement, Jeffrey attended a workshop in 1984, at a time when the craft of blacksmithing was on life support.

Afterwards, Jeffrey began carrying the torch. His generation of blacksmiths eventually grew into the thousands practicing today. Jeffrey's 50 years of work is both the catalyst and product of this revival and era of rediscovering tradition.

According to long-time friend and nominator Dave Hadden, "It is not easy to exaggerate Jeffrey's mastery of his craft." From scythes to railings and sculpture, the broad spectrum of Jeffrey's work fall into three veins: practical necessity, architecture, and public sculpture. Creations of practical necessity include his crafting of—and reinterpreting in both function and form—traditional tools, such as the hammers, tongs, and anvils he uses in his own smithing and in teaching courses at his nonprofit, the New Agrarian School. His architectural work includes gates, fire screens and hardware, and door hinges of materials such as stainless steel, wrought iron, and bronze. In his public sculpture work, Jeffrey creates commissioned pieces for individuals, institutions, and cities, such as the Aeolian harp, a name given to a diverse group of musical instruments—originating with the ancient Greeks—that produce sound as the wind blows through their strings. Regardless of category, Jeffrey's work emphasizes technical and aesthetic integrity.

For Jeffrey, producing these works is an iconic act; to create a tool is to craft a piece of art woven into the fabric of society. Through the process of smithing, a blacksmith engages with the physical environment in a deeply meaningful way—a creation that integrates spirit, mind, hand, surroundings, and utility. This work is both an act of joy and necessity, resulting in functional art that, in line with the aforementioned categories, encourages self-reliance in the most positive sense, such as the scythe he forged and uses to cut grain; hardware that enhances the function of homes, like structural hardware for trusses; and conversation pieces that serve as gathering points for communities across the country where his commissioned works are displayed.

Blacksmith Glenn Gilmore, a long-time friend and fellow MCAM recipient, notes, "One of Jeffrey's strong personal characteristics is the willingness to share his knowledge." In addition to teaching at Penland eight times since his first invitation in 1990, Jeffrey has taught blacksmithing at several other schools before opening his own eight years ago. These include the Peters Valley School of Craft and the New England School of Metalwork, where his experiences ultimately inspired him to establish The New Agrarian School—his most significant endeavor and the only school of its kind in the West. Through studio assistantships, weekend classes, flexible residencies, and one- to three-

week intensive workshops—such as Blacksmith's Tools and Carpenter's Tools—Jeffrey and guest instructors offer an advanced curriculum that, while rooted in history and tradition, embraces a forward-thinking approach to the craft. Reflecting on Jeffrey's teaching, Dave stated, "Jeffrey teaches across the depth and breadth of his art. As a teacher, he regards his students with seriousness and affection; he's an incredible teacher."

Despite flying under the radar, Jeffrey has been recognized in publications featuring American craft and trade—including those local—such as Mountain Outlaw, the Daily Inter Lake, and the Great Falls Tribune, and notably, Bryce Andrew's Holding Fire: A Reckoning with the American West. Further, in 2023 the popular television program, Forged in Fire, filmed an episode at the Agrarian School as part of their "on the road" series visiting several schools across the nation. Another unusual milestone was the invitation he received to represent the U.S. as one of six to eight smiths from around the world working to create and erect a memorial for WWII veterans in Ypres, Belgium.

JOANNE HALL, WEAVING

Weaver Joanne Hall is Swedish-American. Three of her grandparents came from Sweden, and she grew up within a Minnesotan Swedish community. Raised in that environment, she was surrounded by a rich tapestry of tradition, including Swedish immigrant weaving. Eventually, she would also take inspiration from the weaving heritage in Sweden; as an adult, Joanne began traveling to the country to learn more about her cultural heritage, especially weaving traditions. While there, Joanne spent time with her cousins, learning about their weaving experiences, in addition to visiting and weaving alongside other weavers in central and southern Sweden. Further, she built relationships with the editors of VÄV, the only textile magazine in Scandinavia, and owners of major Swedish yarn manufacturers. Regarding forms of textual and visual resources, Joanne also referenced Swedish books, magazines, weaving exhibits, weaving conferences, and exhibits at Swedish museums.

In her vast repertoire, she has woven images of the people, landscape, animals, and the world around her. This includes tapestries inspired by Swedish techniques, including traditional weaves she describes as enriching to the homes and lives of those in the community. Some examples of Swedish weaves that she has continued to weave are called the Swedish Art Weaves, which derive from Skåna, a province in southern Sweden. These techniques are decorative weaves which originally made colorful coverlets, cushions, table runners, and wall decorations for special occasions. She has also woven Swedish weaving techniques for coverlets, pillows, and wall art from other parts of Sweden.

In addition to her personal studies and projects, Joanne has dedicated her life to passing on what she has learned—including those above listed techniques, to the broader weaving community. Joanne first began instructing after receiving her master's degree in textile design from the University of Minnesota, when she relocated and taught weaving at the University of Montana in Missoula in 1971. After leaving the university, even while weaving tapestries full-time, Joanne taught workshops every year in various locations around the US and Canada. Today, however, Joanne is no longer weaving personal projects; 20 years ago, she retired and since has concentrated solely on teaching and inspiring her students through private lessons and workshops. To do so, she has acquired Swedish weaving equipment and yarns and generously shared them with students.

Unlike the Minnesotan Swedish-American community that raised her, Swedish-Americans in Montana are spread out. Joanne makes a conscious effort to connect with them, sharing resources and helping maintain a weaving community in the state. According to fellow Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild members, Annette Cade and Allison Grover, by embracing her parents' Swedish heritage, Joanne has "amplified it to thousands of people in Montana, across North America, and around the world. She has literally touched the lives of thousands of students and wannabe weavers."

Photos courtesy of Eric Heidle.

Beyond teaching, Joanne's accomplishments include awards and commissioned pieces, the latter which are featured in spaces across the US, from galleries to hospitals. In 1990, she was invited to weave a series of six tapestries for Montana Fish Wildlife and Park's Percent for the Arts initiative.

In 1995, Joanne wove her largest tapestry for a hospital in Dallas; titled "Texas Wildflowers," it is 20 feet tall and over 8 feet wide. Similarly, she wove another 16-foot-wide tapestry for a cancer treatment center. For these large tapestries, using traditional tapestry techniques would require years to complete them, so she innovated; instead of traditional techniques, she leaned into her knowledge of Swedish techniques developed during the arts and crafts movement from over 100 years ago. Further, as an honor for her 50 years of teaching, she received the Montana Living Treasures award in 1996, primarily for her contributions to Montana weaving organizations and the many weaving workshops. Finally, in 2003, she was invited to exhibit her tapestries at the Montana Governor's mansion.

HENRY REAL BIRD, COWBOY POETRY

Henry Real Bird's work is a communicative art; it is poetry that blends his Native heritage with the identity of an "assimilated Indian." Via his work, he brings ancient wisdom to life, transforming it into poetry, essays, plays, and performances. His writing offers an Apsáalooke perspective on the Western North American cattle culture, weaving his thoughts into soundscapes that create emotionally evocative imagery. Henry sees poetry as true freedom—a way to explore the deeper meanings of life.

Henry was raised on the Crow Reservation ranch lands by his grandparents, who taught him Crow, his first and primary language. This deeply influences his poetry, as his poems begin in Crow in his mind before being translated into English. This process gives his work a unique rhythm and depth, reflecting the dual experience of living as both a Native person and a cowboy. Through this lens, his poetry offers insight into a life of navigating both Western culture and the traditions and mysticism that anchor him in his Crow identity and perspective. The Native perspective in his poetry is deeply rooted in the past, in the traditions of his Crow ancestors, where thoughts were once expressed through cave drawings depicting events like buffalo jumps.

Moreover, his poetry reflects the rich history of cowboy poetry brought to the region by Irish and Hungarian cowboys who traveled up the trail through Dodge City and the trailhead of Miles City. These cowboys brought folk songs that explored the experiences and etiquette of cowboy life—stories that cowboy poets continue to retell. Henry adds a new dimension to this tradition by offering the perspective of a Native cowboy, blending classic cowboy songs with the wisdom of his heritage. As Brad McMullen, Nevada's State Folklorist and former National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Manager, states, "While some may deride cowboy poetry as doggerel, Henry's work and style of recitation are a wonderful example of the best cowboy poetry offers as a tradition. His poetry and his delivery are a masterclass in the art form, and he deeply understands his heritage, weaving it in masterfully for the audience."

Henry has been deeply involved in the education and cultural preservation of Crow tradition throughout his career. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission, and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Reservation. His leadership extended to his role as president of Little Big Horn College and as a member of the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth, as well as the Crow Central Education Commission. Real Bird also co-developed The Indian Reading Series, a language development program used on twelve Native American reservations in the Northwest. Passionate about keeping the Crow language alive, he writes in both Crow and English. Finally, in the summer of 2010, a year after being appointed the third poet laureate of Montana by Governor Brian Schweitzer, Henry embarked on a 415-mile journey by horseback, during which he distributed books of poetry to communities along his path, aiming to bring literature to rural areas.

Henry is not short on accomplishments. In addition to his history as poet laureate, he has authored six anthologies, four collections of poetry, and twelve children's books, which he illustrated. He is also an active and decades-long participant in the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, where he recites his work annually. Further, his poetry earned him the prestigious Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and has been documented by the Library of Congress, featured by entities such as Yellowstone Public Radio, Humanities Montana, and the Western Folklife Center. In 2012, Henry was named Cowboy Poet of the Year at the 16th annual Academy of Western Artists Will Roger Awards. In 2020, Henry's poem "Thought" was documented and archived by the Library of Congress in their "Living Nations, Living Words" collection.

Photos courtesy of Jessica Lifland.

Photos courtesy of Tim Ryan.

TIM RYAN, NATIVE LIFEWAYS AND TOOLS

As an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Tim Ryan's work embodies the material culture and traditional, place-based ecological knowledge preserved by his ancestors for thousands of years. His research on Salish seasonal rounds, lifeways, and economy has driven him to revive, use, and promote the traditional tools and material goods of his ancestors, leading him to become an instructor of traditional skills.

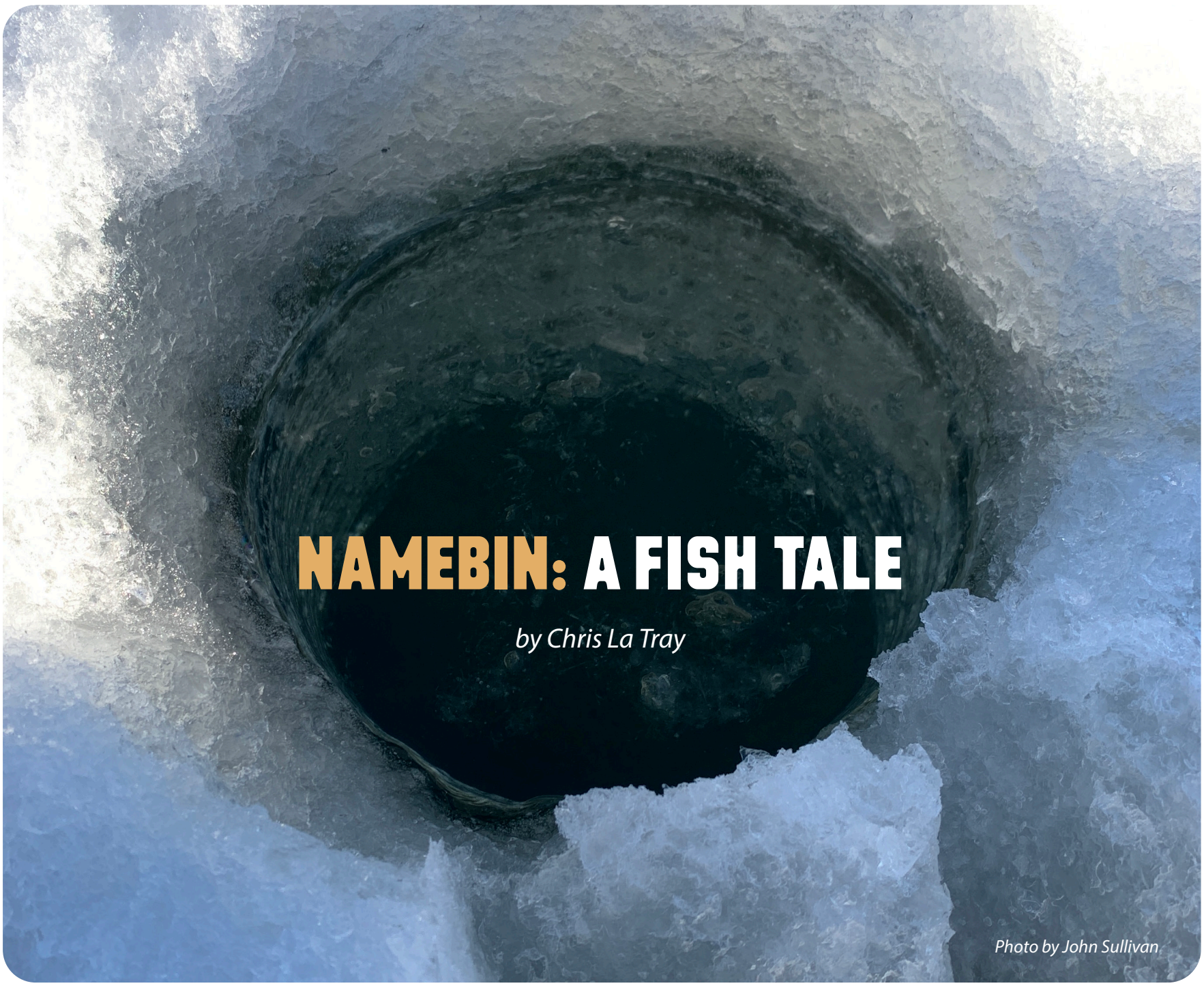
These tools include grinding stones, stone hammers and axes, bison bladder canteens, beaded materials, digging sticks and stick games, fishing tools, parfleche and rawhide works, bows and arrows, and bark baskets and containers. Each tool Tim creates represents those his people used as they thrived on the land through their seasonal rounds. For example, digging sticks were passed down by women who used them to harvest bitterroot growing near camps. Bitterroot was a vital food source, especially when hunting parties returned empty-handed. The digging stick, akin to a Native crowbar, was designed with precision: the ground served as the fulcrum, the shaft as leverage, and the person applied force. The intentional curve of the stick acted as a lever, much like a foot in terms of physics, and it was sized to each individual to prevent strain on the user's back. While this is just one of countless examples, by understanding both the historical significance and the science behind such material culture and Indigenous technologies, those who view and use Tim's work quickly understand that Native practices, developed over millennia, were far from primitive, remain applicable to everyday life, and represent his people's deep connection to and knowledge of the land.

Tim has shared this knowledge through various means, including demonstrations, hands-on traditional skill teachings, and contributions to publications. His work has also been featured in interpretive centers and museums, as well as through collaborations with federal and state agencies, civic organizations, schools via OPI's Indian Education for All, summer youth camps, and in his role at Salish Kootenai College. He has work institutions such as school districts, Tribal Social Services, Butte Public Archives, Circle of Trust Suicide Prevention, Glacier National Park, the Montana State Office of Tourism, and Salish Kootenai College. Additionally, Tim has contributed material culture items to entities like Kootenai National Forest, Montana Historical Society, and the National Bison Range. Through camps and courses, such as the five-day "Salish Pend d'Orielle Culture Camp" and "Bridging the Divide Culture Camp," Tim teaches students about traditional ecological knowledge, cultural practices, history, and tool use.

In his current role as Department Head for Culture and Language in the Native American Studies Division, Tim facilitates experiential learning in Native American culture by incorporating STEM, Indigenous sciences, ethnobotany, natural history, and traditional lifeways—all of which are integrated with the seasonal rounds of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille Tribes of Montana. When teaching his courses, he aligns the curriculum with these seasonal cycles. Regarding his teaching, Salish Kootenai College's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Michael Munson, Ed.D., notes that Tim's "apprentices lovingly refer to him as their ilimixwum (chief/leader)."

Additionally, Tim serves as Project Supervisor for the summer youth program, Mission Mountain Youth Crew, where he teaches students from the Flathead Reservation forest restoration techniques using traditional methods and hand tools. His work provides career-track exposure in the natural resource fields, ensuring that the Native perspective influences these industries for generations to come. At the Butte High School History Club, he led activities such as bison butchering with traditional stone tools, stone tool making, hide processing, and willow fish trap construction. Finally, in his role with Ancestral Skills & Technologies Northwest, Tim consults on and provides educational outreach regarding the crafting of traditional material culture of Northwest tribes.

Tim has dedicated his life to preserving and sharing traditional knowledge, documenting it through countless publications and videos. Through his teaching of tool craftsmanship and use, he ensures that future generations remain connected to their cultural heritage. Michael further recognizes these efforts, stating, "The perpetuation of our cultural arts and ways of being isn't just a job for Tim—it is a way of life!"



NAMEBIN: A FISH TALE

by Chris La Tray

Photo by John Sullivan

I am writing just before the spring equinox in the month we call March which, in Anishinaabe culture, is Onaabani-Giizis, or the Moon of the Crusted Snow. At this point in the season I'd have to drive a fair distance from my house to find enough snow to investigate its consistency and, like most folks I know, this isn't really a problem. With the equinox billed as "the first day" of spring, or ziigwan, I find myself as eager as the next person for longer and warmer days, despite my love for the darker seasons. We view spring as a fresher time; a time of renewal, one of fresh possibilities. We are always so hopeful that once the flowers show back up, things will be so much better!

But in the flurry of bad news we find ourselves afflicted with, I'm thinking of the month just passed: February. Namebini-Giizis, the Suckerfish Moon. Namebin is not a sexy fish. You don't see a lot of dudes in hats proclaiming allegiance to this brewery or that holding forth on their social media accounts with grip-and-grin photographs of the sucker they just hauled out of the water proudly displayed with two hands. There aren't slow motion videos of a line whirling in the golden hour with namebin dancing on the end of it.

Yet namebin is an important relative to us, important enough that an entire season is named after them to remember. There is a very old story associated with this, which I will share a brief version of.

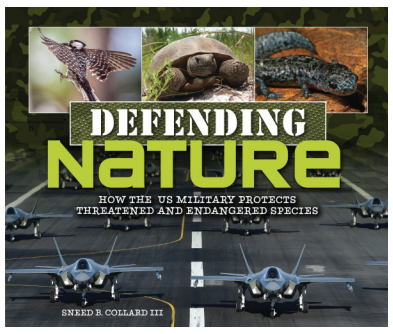
Many, many seasons ago, more than there is anyone alive to remember, it was a very, very difficult winter. The Anishinaabe people had done a good job of preparing in the fall for the snow time, but it started early and was bitterly cold for days on end. By this point in the season all of their food stores had run out and, with all the other relatives hunkered down elsewhere to wait it out, there was no one else to hunt either. Things were looking grim as the Anishinaabe found themselves on the brink of starvation.

From his home deep beneath the ice, Namebin understood the plight of his neighbors. He sent a message to the Anishinaabe in the form of a dream. He told them to cut holes in the ice and drop down lines. If they did that, his people would help them.

So the next morning that is what the Anishinaabe did. They ventured out onto the ice and cut holes to expose the frigid dark water. They dropped ropes and cords and anything else they could use. And the namebini responded by grabbing hold of the lines and offering many of their lives, just like bizhiki, the buffalo, for the sustenance of the Anishinaabe, who survived the rest of the winter on all that fish. Because of the willing sacrifice of the namebini, we are still here. Out of gratitude, we name that part of the season to honor them, that we never forget.

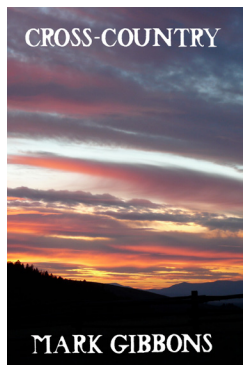
Our survival depends now, as it ever has, on looking back. On remembering. This is the purpose art serves in our communities. Through stories, songs—art of all sorts—we remember the trials we've faced and how we survived them. We remember the broad expanse of what our communities are. Sometimes our restoration and renewal doesn't require just hoping for something better with warmer days, it demands we back up a bit along the trail and pick up those things we might have set aside. To recall comrades from our past experiences. It requires us to remember our stories and the allies we might have forgotten about, to be reminded that we all survive because of each other, not in spite of. Our survival may depend more on remembering than in trying to create something new. We are all of us, after all, human relatives and non-, in every bit of this together.

BOOKS



Defending Nature
by Sneed B. Collard III

In *Defending Nature*, Sneed B. Collard III explores an unexpected facet of the U.S. military's mission: protecting endangered species. Across more than 400 military bases in the U.S., soldiers and scientists work together to conserve at-risk wildlife, thanks to legislation like the Sikes Act and the Endangered Species Act. Collard highlights places like Eglin Air Force Base, where efforts to protect species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise demonstrate how national security and conservation can coexist. Through compelling stories and fascinating examples, *Defending Nature* reveals the innovative ways military personnel contribute to biodiversity preservation. This eye-opening book reminds readers that unexpected allies can play a vital role in safeguarding our planet's fragile ecosystems.

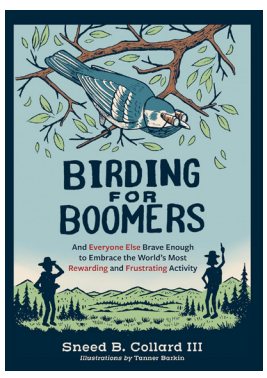


Cross-Country by Mark Gibbons

Cross-Country is Mark Gibbons' poetic reflection on a four-day U-Haul journey from Boston to Seattle. Known for his working-class sensibility, Gibbons crafts a long-form poem that captures the American landscape and the internal reflections of a poet on the road. Drawing from his past as a mover, he maps both highways and personal memories, weaving themes of fatherhood, time, and impermanence. A former Montana Poet Laureate, Gibbons brings lyricism and raw honesty to this meditative travelogue. *Cross-Country* is a powerful and introspective ode to endurance, connection, and the open road.

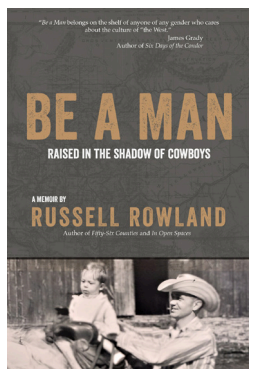
Night Music by B. J. Buckley

Night Music by B. J. Buckley weaves the artistic legacies of Hiroshige, Chopin, and Neruda into a luminous collection of poetry. Buckley's work explores themes of love, longing, and loss, blending the sensual with the mystical. Her vivid metaphors evoke owls in the night, trembling voles, and the delicate touch of a lover. At once urgent and meditative, *Night Music* invites readers into a world where shadow and light, absence and presence, coexist. Buckley's mastery of language offers poems that resonate with deep emotion and timeless beauty.



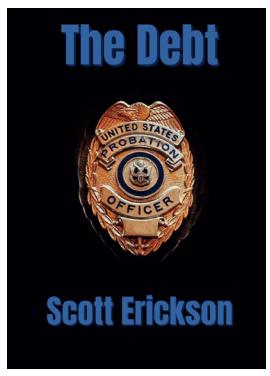
Birding for Boomers
by Sneed B. Collard III

Birding for Boomers is an engaging and accessible guide that invites beginners—and late-bloomers—to discover the joys of birdwatching. Sneed B. Collard III offers practical advice on identifying birds, selecting feeders, and choosing helpful apps, while addressing age-related challenges such as mobility and hearing loss. Collard's approachable style makes birding enjoyable and achievable for everyone. Beyond personal enjoyment, he encourages readers to share their passion, contribute to citizen science, and support conservation. Recently honored by the Montana Book Awards, *Birding for Boomers* inspires readers to connect with nature and find joy in observing the feathered world around them.



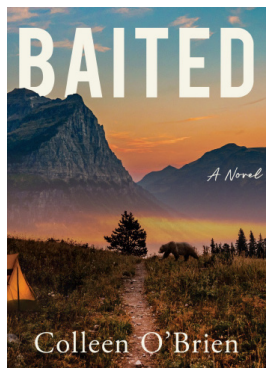
BE A MAN: Raised in the Shadow of Cowboys by Russell Rowland

Russell Rowland's memoir *BE A MAN* explores masculinity in the American West through the lens of his fourth-generation Montana upbringing. Raised by a mother from a Southeastern Montana cattle ranch, Rowland confronts inherited expectations around stoicism, strength, and emotional silence. With unflinching honesty, he examines issues like alcoholism, domestic violence, and personal failure, and how Western myths shaped his family's identity. Rowland's storytelling is both personal and universal, offering a thoughtful meditation on gender, identity, and breaking free from outdated ideals.



The Debt by Scott R. Erickson

In Scott R. Erickson's debut novel, Karson Reed, a U.S. Probation Officer in Montana, finds himself entangled in a dangerous case. Tasked with supervising Mark Wilson, recently released from prison, Reed must navigate threats from Mark's criminal past while a judge pressures him for information that could help Mark's incarcerated brother. Written by a retired probation officer, this gripping novel pulls back the curtain on the often-overlooked world of federal probation officers. With authenticity and suspense, Erickson offers a compelling look at justice, survival, and the complexities of law enforcement.



Baited by Colleen O'Brien

Set in Glacier National Park, *Baited* by Colleen O'Brien is a gripping mystery of wildlife conservation, betrayal, and

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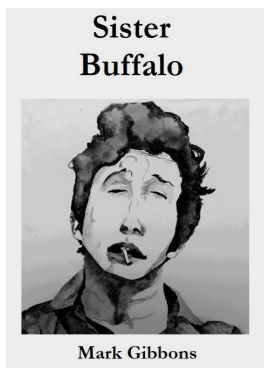
human ambition. Trails worker Clancy Dyer discovers her coworker missing, sparking a search that uncovers sabotage in a groundbreaking grizzly bear DNA study. Biologist Liz Ralston, frustrated by the lack of protection for her work, takes matters into her own hands. Told from multiple perspectives, *Baited* explores personal vendettas, strained relationships, and the moral dilemmas of protecting nature. O'Brien's novel is a thrilling and thought-provoking exploration of justice in the wild.

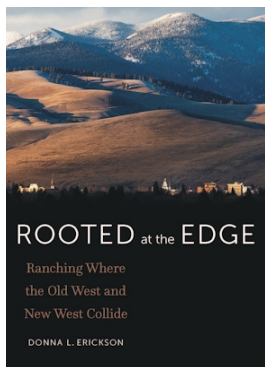
The Silver Squad: Rebels with Wrinkles by Marty Essen

The Silver Squad by Marty Essen proves it's never too late for adventure. Barry and Beth, high school sweethearts reunited at Blue Loon Village, embark on a vigilante road trip after rekindling their youthful dream of changing the world. Joined by Jenny, a woman fleeing abuse, they tackle injustice—robbing the rich to feed the homeless, rescuing animals, and even confronting a mass shooter. Both comedic and socially conscious, *The Silver Squad* celebrates courage, second chances, and living boldly at any age.



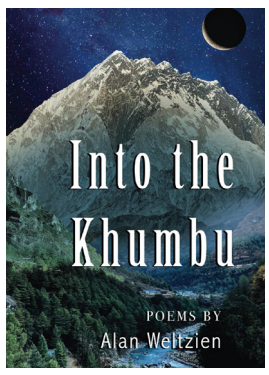
Sister Buffalo by Mark Gibbons

In *Sister Buffalo*, Mark Gibbons delivers powerful, unflinching poetry that moves between Montana's pool halls and quiet moments of reflection. Addressing topics from structural racism to the American Dream, Gibbons offers sharp, compassionate insight. His odes and elegies honor drag queens, working-class heroes, and personal icons, weaving music, humor, and truth. *Sister Buffalo* is an anthem of resilience—a battle cry and balm for those seeking honesty in a complex world.



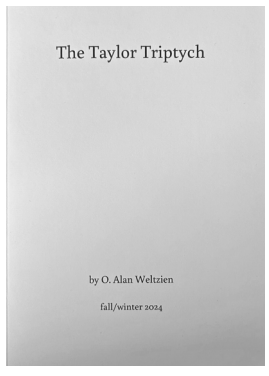
Rooted at the Edge by Donna L. Erickson

Donna L. Erickson's Rooted at the Edge explores the clash between ranching traditions and suburban expansion in Missoula, Montana. Focusing on the North Hills, Erickson portrays a community struggling with economic pressures, climate change, and urban encroachment. With sensitivity and insight, she captures what's at stake when open land is lost, offering a heartfelt narrative that underscores the human and ecological consequences of unchecked development.



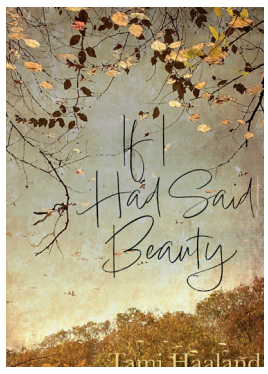
Into the Khumbu by Alan Weltzien

Alan Weltzien's *Into the Khumbu* offers lyrical reflections on his trek through Nepal's Everest region. As both climber and writer, Weltzien captures the grandeur of towering peaks and the stark realities of life in high altitudes. His poetry balances awe with contemplation, honoring those lost along these treacherous trails. *Into the Khumbu* is a meditation on endurance, mortality, and the spiritual depths of the Himalayas.



The Taylor Triptych by Alan Weltzien

In *The Taylor Triptych*, Alan Weltzien explores his family history with sensitivity and insight. Through concise, evocative prose, he traces the lives of ancestors who worked as astrologers and in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Weltzien's narrative bridges fact and speculation, prompting universal questions about identity and heritage. This thoughtful memoir reflects on the enduring human need to understand where we come from and why it matters.



If I Had Said Beauty by Tami Haaland

Review by Eric Heidle

Tami Haaland's new collection of poems functions as a sort of atlas for the human form, teasing out the interstates of bone along which our bodies conduct commerce, mapping archipelagoes of DNA and the dangers of owning these islands of human or Neanderthal territory, tracing the meandering deltas of dandruff deposited in the airline seats of the world. Such maps inevitably leak beyond their borders and tangle with the world outside our selves, zinging back and forth through time in their attempts to chart the terra incognita of our ancestors' thoughts, the relative permanence of a button sewed onto cloth, and the amount of our identities we can be personally held to account for. Beauty and death take their turns illuminating this globe of the self, whether in the shape of flowers along the trail or a robin's brief reprieve between a windowpane collision and the attentions of the neighbor's cat.

An autopsy in verse annotated with an Org Chart of the Self, *If I Had Said Beauty* ruminates on who we were meant to be and what we might yet become, beyond the cells of our genetic prisons with their double-helixed bars. The children our forebears didn't have, the snipped-off doll's hair that stubbornly won't regrow, the presumed one-wayness of our conversations with the dead and artifacts that keep the chatter going both ways—all dangling strands we worry at, threads of family stories and nerve endings that don't quite ever end. Tami Haaland maps them as far as they'll go; some re-emerge on the far side of the page, and some simply wink out for now, awaiting new cartographers yet to be born.

GOLD AND GUANO:

REHAB FOR MONTANA'S ATTICS

By Eric Heidle

I wish I could tell you the sweat trickling out of my climbing helmet is due to the unseasonal warmth of a fine September day, or from the exertion of scaling a maze of twenty-foot ladders bolted to the top of a steel wedding cake of scaffolding. And while it is toasty outside and I'm wildly out of shape, the perspiration is mostly nerves stemming from where those ladders are at. I'm nearly a football field above street level, clinging to a row of yellow rungs bolted just below the top of the Cathedral of Saint Helena's north spire, and well above the last of the comfy stairs installed around the spire's belfry. And while there is scaffolding around and below me here, there's not nearly enough.

Home to more than bats, the attic once included an apartment for the Paris Gibson Square's custodian and his family, and the children's growth was duly noted on the exposed beam in the photo at lower left.

In a city with arguably more distinctive architecture than any other in Montana— including our stately state Capitol, the anachronistic Civic Center with its Moorish Revival minaret, and the historic fire tower holding court above Last Chance Gulch—the Cathedral may be its most iconic. Like the Civic Center, Saint Helena is an oddity of sorts in this pioneer town built on mining, ranching, and politics; it's quirky to see a Gothic Viennese cathedral perched just up the hill from a former saddlery, the Western Bar, and a bank display of prospectors' gold nuggets. But horses and saloons and gold all led directly to this towering structure I'm currently clinging to.

"I hate to tell you; this is a massively improved system," Peter Baker notes dryly as I reach the top of the ladder. Baker, the cathedral's on-site representative during the two-year restoration of its spires and façade which has necessitated all the scaffolding, is deeply familiar with every aspect of the project. The "system" he's referring to are the ladders I've just climbed, which face inward toward the red clay tiles cladding the spire's upper flanks. "Last year," he explains, referring to the previous summer's work on the cathedral's south tower, "It was facing…this way." Peter illustrates "this way" with a vague gesture to the east, outward over the void above the roof of the nave a hundred feet below, with all the Helena valley beyond it. All I can manage in reply is, "Oooh."

No matter which way they're facing, though, historic restoration means that sketchy-looking ladders come with the territory. Earlier in the year, I failed to climb an especially historic wooden ladder which accesses the roof of Great Falls' Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. Though canted at a merciful sixty-degree angle, the latter ladder was a tad too wiggly for comfort; I chickened out halfway.

Paris Gibson Square was built in 1896 as the Electric City's old Central School, and like the cathedral it's an impressive work of art. It too has red clay tile adorning a steeply-pitched roof above gray stone, though in a Romanesque rather than Gothic idiom. All that's missing is an imposing spire—literally, as it turns out. The original structure featured an immense square tower above the main entrance's rounded front, but its great weight threatened to compromise the entire building and was dismantled in 1916. The resulting roofline is more elegant and structurally sound, but it didn't solve all the Square's problems. For while the Cathedral of Saint Helena may have more belfries, Paris Gibson had all the bats.

Underneath that red tile, it seems, lay decades of reminders that bats love to call places like this home. As with most attics, Paris Gibson's top floor is chockablock with stuff: theater seats and stage props and century-old yearbooks. And carpeting every inch of it were the calling cards of all those bats. This presented both health and structural concerns for the museum, leading to a multiyear fundraising campaign to pay for remediation and to shoo

the pesky rodents on to other roosts. Work finally got underway in 2024, and thanks to an invite from then-director Sarah Justice and curator Nicole Evans I was afforded a before-and-after appraisal of the project.

The results are impressive. There's still stuff in the attic, but it's been pared back to the essentials. More importantly, the bats are gone, courtesy of the sprayed-foam barriers guarding every crack and seam of the roofline's interior. Providing both a physical deterrent and bat-repelling properties, this barrier will keep the attic clean and dry for years to come—and protect all the vibrant artwork on view beneath it. It also points to a key challenge: the arts are often more than funding the work itself. Though the Montana Arts Council is among the many underwriters of artwork, performances, and programming at the Square, infrastructure matters too. The attic project was paid for in part by generous community donations, highlighting the strength of support for historic preservation in the Electric City.

And that's as it should be, since this building has done more than its share for the arts. In addition to its oversized clock tower, the Square once had an enormous annex on its south side built to address its growing needs as a school. But those needs came and went, and the unsightly annex eventually outweighed its utility, setting the stage for its demise at the hands of a force much greater than bat guano: Charles Bronson.

Just after its dedication as Paris Gibson Square, the building parted ways with its annex in the most dramatic fashion possible. The Charles Bronson film *Telefon* was in production and had need of a large building to detonate on camera for a key action sequence. Great Falls was happy to oblige and in February 1977 the old annex was rigged with explosives and blown to smithereens, presumably to the delight of school children everywhere. The original structure was unharmed and is now well into its second century of use.

In 1935, the Cathedral survived a bigger cataclysm. In October of that year a series of magnitude 6 earthquakes shook Helena, destroying its new high school and dozens of other structures. The Cathedral's south tower was extensively damaged but fortunately did not collapse; it would be clad in wooden scaffolding for months as repairs and reinforcements were made.

The south tower looks pretty good today from my perch on its northern twin as Peter and I finally reach the tippy-top. The gap between them is narrow, just 60 feet, and gives rise to one of the city's most enduring urban legends: in the summer of 1945, an Air Force pilot was alleged to have flown his P-51 Mustang between the spires—a tight squeeze but possible, especially since he was said to have tipped the plane on its side to make more room. Though it's never been confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt, it's at least plausible—and terrifying.

To that, I'll add another sketchy bit of Cathedral lore. When I was young, my grandmother told me that my great-grandfather had worked on the building's construction and had witnessed another man perform a handstand atop one of the crosses, with a lot less scaffolding below him than I'm enjoying today.

Flecks of gold remaining from the north cross.

A one-day-old coat of gold leaf lends a serious upgrade to the copper-and-wood cross atop the north spire.

Peter Baker descends a ladder very near the top of the Cathedral's north spire.

The Cathedral of Saint Helena, with its north spire and façade shrouded in scaffolding.

Having finally reached the top, I'm not sure if that makes the view more scary or less. But the craftsmanship on display, then and now, is scary good.

The crews working here have spent two summers addressing the many issues facing the building: cracked limestone, insufficient structural stability, and many, many missing tiles in need of replacement and new mortar. On my way up, Peter showed me what the ravages of weather and time do, from chips and missing pieces from the many statues of saints and notable figures on the building's west front to cracked and absent tiles, to corrosion and other materials fatigue. All of it's being addressed one bit at a time to ensure that the process won't need to be repeated for decades to come.

One such repair, and the literal crowning touch on the project, was finished just yesterday. The gold paint adorning the cross and its twin on the south spire had long been faded by weather, and rather than repaint them they've been given a more permanent finish: actual gold. The cross in front of me, six feet across and fully twelve feet tall, sparkles with astonishing brightness in its new coat of thin but durable gold leaf. It's fitting final touch, as the cathedral owes its existence in part to the generosity of Helena pioneer Thomas Cruse, whose enormous wealth came from his gold strike at what became Marysville. His donations purchased the land and paid for much of the construction, along with "Mamie's Bells," the 15 bells hanging in the tower below us and dedicated to Cruse's daughter. Though he died shortly before the Cathedral's official completion in 1914, Thomas Cruse had one more role to play in its history: his was the first funeral held at Saint Helena.

Having seen the restoration of two iconic Big Sky structures from top to bottom, I'm impressed by the commitment Montana's people have to preserving, restoring, and celebrating their cultural heritage—as houses of worship, places of learning, venues for great music and art and gathering as a community. I almost forget to take an obligatory selfie while I'm here; Peter tells me to get one now because my next chance won't be for fifty years. I take a long last look from here and brush my hand across the very top of the cross at the very top of this remarkable structure, then draw it back. For a brief moment, till they start sweating profusely again on the vertiginous climb back down, **the tips of my fingers are flecked with the very newest, purest, priciest dust you'll ever find on a job site, and the thing that made this cross and this place and this town possible: tiny glints of solid gold.**

Photos By Eric Heidle

Students learn about the process and history behind Willem Volkersz' radiant neon artwork at Paris Gibson Square.

By Monica Grable

What if one brief encounter with live performance became the catalyst for a lifetime of creative output? Or, what if such an encounter were to launch a community of adult learners built and sustained by their love of artmaking? And, what if a single opportunity to form something from clay, offered unexpectedly to a young learner, had the effect of setting that student on a pathway of creative experimentation and innovative thought?

These questions and many more have been answered through the multitude of projects funded under AISC Experiences, a small yet meaningful grant opportunity first made available by MAC in late 2021. Still new to many, this grant is offered under the umbrella of the Artists in Schools and Communities program, MAC's longstanding funding pathway to providing arts learning access. Serving every age and ability of learner, the program is continuing to expand its possibilities thanks to the work of Montana's arts and non-arts organizations.

Funds may be used to connect learners with art and artists, to purchase tools, supplies or materials that extend possibilities for experimentation, or to (literally) transport students to encounter art. There is no cash match required for AISC Experiences grants and the funding range is $250 - $2500.

In service of MAC's mission to "develop the creative potential of all Montanans, advance education, spur economic vibrancy and revitalize communities through involvement in the arts," we aim to extend the opportunities for arts learning across Montana. We'd love to provide these engagements in person, but Montana's vast distances and the variety of artistic opportunities available outweigh our ability to fulfill them. Thankfully, partnerships made possible with funding made available to our statewide organizations ensure that those opportunities become reality. Among the recently-awarded grants listed below, a maker space in Red Lodge, a 5th grade honor band tour, accessible printmaking classes for adults, a kiln purchase and a summer theater camp have all become possible.

Though each organization is eligible for only one AISC Experiences grant per year, there are three deadlines to choose from in 2025: April 17, August 14, and December 11, all due at 11:59 PM. To learn more about Artists in Schools and Communities grants, visit art.mt.gov/aisc or connect with Monica Grable, Arts Education Director, via email at Monica.Grable@mt.gov or by phone: (406) 444.6522.

2024 AISC Experiences | December Round Awarded Grants

Organization Name	Organization	Project Name	Awarded
Helena Symphony	Helena	Helena Symphony Annual Youth Concert & School Experience	$2,500.00
Holter Museum of Art	Helena	Artists in Schools Residency	$2,500.00
Bonner School	Bonner	The 5 Valleys Honor Band	$2,280.00
Washington Middle School	Missoula	Washington Middle School Missoula Kiln Replacement	$2,500.00
Yellowstone Art Museum	Billings	Lifelong Learning and Creative Aging through Art Education at the YAM	$2,500.00
Hellgate Elementary School District	Missoula	5th Grade Missoula Art Museum Experience	$1,600.00
Elk River Arts & Lectures	Livingston	Poetry in the Classroom (spring 2025)	$2,500.00
The Myrna Loy	Helena	Myrna Musicians in the Schools	$2,150.00
Missoula Art Museum	Missoula	MAM's Fifth Grade Art Experience/CSKT School Program: Bus Transportation for Flathead Nation Schools	$2,500.00
Grandstreet Broadwater Productions, Inc.	Helena	Dance Intensive for Grandstreet Theatre Summer Conservatory Project	$2,500.00
Alpine Artisans, Inc.	Seeley Lake	Cliff Nelson Theater Camp	$2,500.00
Zootown Arts Community Center	Missoula	Accessible Community Printmaking Workshops	$2,500.00
Red Lodge Area Community Foundation	Red Lodge	Maker Mondays at the Roosevelt Center	$2,500.00
MAPS Media Institute	Hamilton	Traditional Pipe-making Workshop with Master Artist Donovan Archambault	$2,500.00
Cohesion Dance Project	Helena	Cohesion Dance Project's Resonance Residency – a Hands-on Experience of Art of Inspiring Art	$2,500.00
		Total Requests	**$36,030.00**

Tall Blades by Jeremy Dennis

Ucross Art Gallery Features Show of

NATIVE AMERICAN FELLOWS' WORK

Ucross Art Gallery has announced the opening of "The Language of the Land," an exhibition featuring the artwork of the 2024 recipients of the Ucross Fellowship for Native American Artists, including multidisciplinary artist Steven J. Yazzie (Diné/Pueblo of Laguna/European Ancestry) of Denver, Colorado; fine art photographer Jeremy Dennis (Shinnecock Indian Nation) of Southampton, New York.; and poet and writer Danielle Shandiin Emerson (Diné) of Shiprock, New Mexico.

The show is curated by Sean Chandler (Aaniiih), Montana Arts Council member and president of Aaniiih Nakoda College on the Fort Belknap Reservation. "The land holds our identity, our stories and our truth about ourselves," Chandler says of the exhibition's intentions. "Steven, Jeremy and Danielle have each interpreted their own connection to the land, creating works that are deeply personal and universally resonant. Their art speaks to the strength, resilience and spiritual connection that Indigenous Peoples have with their environment."

Steven J. Yazzie, a multidisciplinary artist explores themes of identity, memory and the perception of space and place. Through photography, he blends observation with imagination, using postproduction techniques to create layered narratives that challenge viewers to reconsider the natural world and its sacredness.

Jeremy Dennis, a contemporary fine art photographer, examines Indigenous identity, assimilation and cultural preservation. His work blends humor and truth to address issues such as treaty rights and historical misrepresentation. His piece "The Present Day" humorously critiques non-Native perspectives while reclaiming Indigenous narratives.

Danielle Shandiin Emerson, a fiction writer, poet and playwright, uses her creative practice to process trauma, celebrate her culture and explore intergenerational connections. Her poetry and mixed-media works featured in the exhibition delve into themes of resilience, kinship and healing. Deeply personal yet widely resonant, her art is rooted in family storytelling and a profound relationship with the land, offering an emotional and reflective journey for viewers.

Established in 2018, the Ucross Fellowship for Native American Artists supports contemporary Indigenous visual artists, writers and, soon, performers. The fellowship offers a four-week residency, which includes private studio space, living accommodations, staff support and meals, all within the inspiring landscape of the High Plains of Wyoming. Fellows are also provided with a $2,000 award and the opportunity to showcase their work publicly in art exhibitions such as "The Language of the Land," as well as readings and performances.

Steven Yazzie reflected on the impact of the fellowship, saying, "Ucross is a place where creativity is unbounded, and the mind is free to roam. The residency captures the essence of artistic freedom, set against the vast and expansive landscape."

Shawn Chandler

Steven J. Yazzie

Jeremy Dennis

Danielle Shandiin Emerson

REMEMBERING JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE SMITH

Few artists have left us a legacy as rich as Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, who left us at age 85 in January of this year. Her work, chronicled in more than 80 solo exhibitions during her lifetime, mapped the Native American experience in literal and symbolic ways, and all at once. A strong visual sense which frequently riffed on pop culture icons and blended graphic design, printmaking, photography, and painting lent her work an immediacy which rewarded patient viewers with subtle and powerful layers of meaning. A dartboard becomes a metaphorical stand-in for the ways in which Indigenous peoples have been targeted in one of her *I See Red* series of paintings. Her frequent use of maps to illustrate the irony of dividing North America along ruler-straight boundaries, without respect to terrain or the people living in it, highlighted differing cultural attitudes toward ownership of land and place. References to commercial clip art and pictographs in the same work serve as shorthand for millennia of Native history before the arrival of Europeans.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Resilience, adaptability, and rough-edged beauty are themes which shine through in Quick-to-See's work, rapidly outrunning any attempt to limit her vast output to anything that one would be tempted to call "style." Her own background, of Salish-Kootenai, Métis, Cree, and Shoshone-Bannock heritage, lent her multiple perspectives even before she began incorporating the ideas of Pop artists and others rethinking the visualization of the West. Her collages underline the utility of making art with what's available and assembling it with a sense of spontaneity whose end result nevertheless makes one feel it's always existed. This assurance in Quick-to-See's work is sometimes a master class in simplicity, as the rough-hewn, multicolored triangles drawn in 1978's *Untitled (Green & Yellow)* can attest. They simultaneously evoke timbered mountains, buffalo-hide tipis, and Cavalry fort rooftops, all within straight-edged rectangles suggestive of ledger art; the outlined figure of a woman lying prone in a hide dress beneath what might be a US flag leads to uncomfortable conclusions about what's being tallied on the page.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith was awarded numerous honorary degrees during her lifetime, and became the first Native American artist to have a solo retrospective at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art with *Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: Memory Map* in 2023. In that same year, she curated an exhibition of nearly 50 contemporary Native American artists at Washington, D.C.'s National Gallery of Art. She is a Montana Governor's Arts Award honoree, and received numerous awards nationally and in New Mexico, where she resided and worked. Born in St. Ignatius in 1940, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith passed away in Corrales, New Mexico on January 24.

Untitled (Green & Yellow), 1978. Mixed media on paper. From the Lucile and Donald Graham Collection of the Denver Art Museum.Photo: Courtesy of Jaune Quick-to-See-Smith/Garth Greenan Gallery, New York.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Survival Map, 2021*. Acrylic, ink, charcoal, fabric, and paper on canvas, 60 x 40 in. (152.4 x 101.6 cm). Arte Collectum. Image courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Blackwater Draw II*, 1983

SPRING CALENDAR

BELT

Belt Performing Arts Center beltperformingartscenter.com	♪	The Jazz Legacy Project	Sat. April 2025 3 PM & 7 PM	$25
	♪	Tomáš Kubínek	Sat. May 2025 3 PM & 7 PM	$25

BIG FORK

Bigfork Art and Cultural Center baccbigfork.org/classes	🖼	Art Camp	June 16-20 10:00 AM	$175+

BIG SKY

Big Sky Resort bigskyresort.com	!	Spring Series: Music, Après, Pond Skim	April Weekends Daily	TBD
Big Sky Arts Council baroquemusicmontana.org	♪	The Thistle	June 20 7:30 PM	$5+

BIG TIMBER

Big Timber Civic Center bigtimber.com/chamber-information	🖼	Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest	May 30-31 Daily	$42+
	!	Sweet Grass Fest 2025	June 27-28 Daily	Free

BILLINGS

Kirks Grocery kirksgrocery.com	!	Open Mic Poetry Night	April 3, 17, May 1 & 13 7:00 PM	Free
	!	Kitchen Party with Chef Ash & DJ Dixon Moonstomper	April 18 & May 9 6:00 PM	Free
	🖼	Gordon McConnell	April 4-May 24 Daily	Free
	🖼	Kirk's Ceramics	June 6-July 19 Daily	Free
Alberta Bair Theater albertabairtheater.org	🎭	The Gruffalo's Child	April 4 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM	$7+
	♪	Hotel CA the Original Eagles Tribute	April 5 7:30 PM	$40+
	🎭	Journey to Oz	April 8 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM	$7+
	♪	Uptown	April 11 12:30 PM	$7+
	♪	Uptown	April 12 7:30 PM	$28+
	🎭	Stinky Cheese Man	April 17 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM	$7+
	♪	Billings Symphony Presents Tchaikovsky 5	April 26 7:30 PM	$20+
	♪	John Mueller's "Winter Dance Party"	May 3 7:30 PM	$40+
	♪	Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit	May 7 7:30 PM	$75+
	♪	The Music of Billy Joel & Elton John starring Michael Cavanaugh	May 10 7:30 PM	$25+
	!	Champions of Magic	May 13 7:30 PM	$55+
	!	Brad Williams: The Growth Spurt Tour	June 21 7:00 PM	$26.50+
NOVA Center for the Performing Arts novabillings.org	🎭	Once Upon A Mattress	April 25-27, May 2-4 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
	🎭	Comic Book Artist	May 16-18, 23-25 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
	🎭	Pride & Prejudice	June 13-15, 20-22 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
Yellowstone Art Museum artmuseum.org	🖼	YAM Teens: Something, Something	April 2 3:30 PM	Free
Yellowstone Art Museum artmuseum.org	♪	Baroque Music Montana: Candide's Voltaire	April 3 7:00 PM	$25+
	🖼	Fam at the YAM	April 4 &May 4 4:00 PM	$6+
	🖼	Studio 2nd Saturday	April 12 & May 10 10:00 AM	$6+
	🖼	YAM Teens: Open Studio	April 16 1:00 PM	$6+
	🖼	Northeastern Asia and the Northern Rockies Exhibition	April 18 Daily	$6+
	🖼	YAM Teens: Tradition Influences the NOW	May 7 3:30 PM	$6+
	🖼	Adult Art Class	May 10 10:00 AM	$6+
	🖼	Urban Sketching & Sketch Booking Symposium	May 17 Daily	$6+
	🖼	YAM Teens: New Art Incoming!	May 21 3:30 PM	$6+
Downtown Billings artwalkbillings.com	🖼	Billings Art Walk	April 4 & June 6 5:00 PM	Free
Northern Hotel billingssymphony.org	♪	Billings Symphony Youth Orchestra Spring Concert	April 6 4:00 PM	Free
Lockwood Performing Arts Center billingssymphony.org	♪	Tchaikovsky 5	April 26 7:00 PM	$20+
St. Patrick Co-Cathedral billingssymphony.org	♪	Janice Carissa: Vogue	May 8 7:00 PM	$25+
Babcock Theatre billingssymphony.org	♪	RMJC: Hollywood Magic	June 14 7:00 PM	$25+
Pioneer Park billingssymphony.org	♪	Symphony in the Park	June 29 4:00 PM	Free
The Pub Station Ballroom thepubstation.com/events/	♪	Casey Donahew	April 3 8:00 PM	$25
	♪	Ugly in the Morning with Special Guest OGT	April 4 8:00 PM	$10
	♪	Zechariah Peabody Album Release: Wilsall	April 5 8:00 PM	$15
	!	Club 90's Presents Charli XCX Night	April 11 9:00 PM	15+
	♪	Tophouse with the Wildwoods	April 13 8:00 PM	$25
	♪	AJ Lee & Blue Summit	April 16 8:00 PM	$15
	♪	Cooper Allen	April 20 8:00 PM	$35
	♪	Josh Blue	April 26 7:00 PM	$39.50
	♪	Laura Jane Grace & The Mississippi Medicals	April 27 8:00 PM	$29.50
	♪	Memphis May Fire with Special Guests: Caskets, Wind Walkers & Elijah	April 29 7:30 PM	$25
	♪	The Devil Wears Prada with Erra	April 30 7:00 PM	$29.50+
	♪	Dirtwire: Pyrochrome Tour	May 4 8:00 PM	$25+
	!	Joe Buck Yourself	May 7 8:00 PM	$12
	!	Kyle Kinane & Matt Braunger	May 10 7:00 PM	$39.50
	!	Doug Stanhope	May 11 7:30 PM	$35
	♪	Seether - The Surface Seems so far Tour	May 17 8:00 PM	$58.50+
	♪	Angelmaker	May 22 7:00 PM	$17

Art 🖼 Art & Music 🎸 Cultural 🏛 Dance 💃 Film 🎞 Literary 📖 Misc. ! Music ♪ Theatre 🎭

The Pub Station Ballroom thepubstation.com/events/		Rehab w/Special Guest Shallow Side	June 8 8:00 PM	$25
First Interstate Arena at MetraPark metrapark.com		Precision Arts Challenge	April 25-27 Daily	
		Tom Segura: Come Together Tour	April 27 7:00 PM	35+
		Thunderstruck Dance	May 3 & 4 Daily	
Crooked Line Studio crookedlinestudio.com/event-calendar		After School Art for Kids	April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 2:30 PM	$180
		Mixed Media Meet Up	April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 6:00 PM	$10
		Bob Ross "Sunset over the Waves" w/Ray Dicken	April 2 & 19 6:00 PM	$65
		The Sky's the Limit w/Mike Koski	April 3, 10 , 17 & 24 1:00 PM	$150
		Painting 102 w/Carolyn Thayer	April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2, & 29 6:00 PM	$225
		Open Art	April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 11:00 AM	$8
		Open Art	April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 6:00 PM	$8
		Friday Painters w/Carolyn Thayer	April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 1:00 PM	$225
		Rabbit Sculptures w/Ray Dicken	April 5 & 22 6:00 PM	$45
		Painting 101 w/Carolyn Thayer	April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 6:00 PM	$225
		Spring is Coming w/Kathy Baumann	April 22 6:00 PM	$38

BOZEMAN

Helen E. Copeland Gallery art.montana.edu		Spring BFA Thesis'	April 21 Daily	Free
		Spring BFA Thesis' Reception	May 8 5:00 PM	Free
Bozeman Public Library bozemansymphony.org		Symphony Storytime	April 23, May 14 & June 4 10:15 AM	Free
		Teen Corner Exploration	Every Day All Day	Free
		Fibre Arts	Wednesdays 4:00 PM	Free
		Baby Storytime	Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:15 AM	Free
		Toddler & Preschool Storytime	Wednesdays & Fridays 10:15 AM	Free
		Big Kid STEAM Play - Storytelling	Mondays Daily	Free
Hope Lutheran Church bozemansymphony.org		Choir Series: The Stones Sang: Celebrating the Land	April 4 & 5 7:00 PM & 2:30 PM	$18+
Willson Auditorium bozemansymphony.org		Classical Series: Pictures at an Exhibition	April 26 & 27 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	$27+
		Classical Series: A Spiritual Awakening: Verdi, Simon, Ives	May 17 & 18 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	$27+
		Classical Series: Pablo Returns and Copland's Third Symphony	June 6-8 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	$27+
Peace of Christ Community Church baroquemusicmontana.org		Youthful Splendor	April 6 4:00 PM	Donation
Backyard of Paul and Carrie baroquemusicmontana.org		The Thistle	June 18 6:00 PM	$5+

The Emerson theemerson.org/current-exhibits/		The Botany of Math(re); Further into the Weeds	Feb 3-Apr 30 Daily	$5+
		Montana Roots and Routes	Feb 3-Apr 30 Daily	$5+
Museum of the Rockies museumoftherockies.org		Sue: The T. rex Experience	Feb 8-Sept Daily	$10.50+
The Ellen Theatre theellen.my.salesforce-sites.com		Bozeman Second String Orchestra	April 5 7:00 PM	Free
		Class C: The Only Game in Town	April 6 3:00 PM	Free
		The Trail Running Film Festival	April 10 7:00 PM	$21.50
		Flow	April 11 7:30 PM	$11.00
		2025 Ritual Mountain Bike Film Tour	April 12 7:00 PM	$27.50
		The Wild Robot	April 13 2:00 PM	$11.00
		The Great Guitars	April 18 7:30 PM	$41.00
		Columbia River Canoe Project	April 25 7:00 PM	$11.50+
		Pecha Kucha 46	April 22 & 23 6:40 PM	$5.50+
		Luca Stricagnoli	April 27 7:30 PM	$37.50
		Hansel and Gretel	May 8-11 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$50+
Bozeman Art Museum bozemanartmuseum.org		Bozeman Botanicals: Distance & Details	May 9-July 12 Daily	$100
The Elm logjampresents.com		Sarah Colonna	April 4 8:00 PM	$25+
		Champagne Drip	April 5 8:00 PM	$25+
		Josh Blue	April 24 8:00 PM	$35+
		The Martin Sexton Abbey Road Show	April 29 8:00 PM	$35+
		Tiffany Haddish	May 2 8:00 PM	$35+
		Dirtwire: Pyrochrome Tour	May 3 8:00 PM	$29+
		Victor Wooten & The Wooten Brothers	May 6 8:00 PM	$35+
		Moms Like Me	May 10 5:00 PM	$10
		Steel Pulse	May 13 8:00 PM	$35+
		Hippie Sabotage	May 19 8:00 PM	$40+
		Napalm Death & Melvins	May 31 8:00 PM	$25+
Live from the Divide livefromthedivide.com		JD Graham	April 5 8:00 PM	$35
		Hooks & The Huckleberries	April 16 8:00 PM	$35
		Danno Simpson	April 25 8:00 PM	$40
		Lola Kirke	June 11 8:00 PM	$60
		Tyler James Kelly	June 20 8:00 PM	$35
		Buffalo Kin	June 21 8:00 PM	$45

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse montana.edu/brickbreeden		Who the F**k is Johnny Blue Skies?	April 17 8:00 PM	$49.50+
		Bozeman Spring MADE Fair	May 2 & 3 Daily	Free-$10

BUTTE

The Mother Lode Theatre buttearts.org/event/sail-on/		Sail On: The Beach Boys Tribute	April 5 8:00 PM	$25+
		Desperate Electric and Hard Hugs	April 11 7:00 PM	$33+
		Psychic Comic - Peter Antoniou	April 19 7:00 PM	$37+
		The Butte Symphony Series: Pure Joy	April 26 7:30 PM	$18.75+
		Sing Us a Song	May 4 7:00 PM	$25+
		Montana Songwriter Festival	May 18 7:00 PM	$33+
		The Sleeping Beauty - Grand Kyiv Ballet	May 23 7:00 PM	$27+
		Growling Old Men	June 11 7:00 PM	$33+
Butte Civic Center facebook.com/butteemergencyfoodbank		Empty Bowls	April 2 6:00 PM	$20
Covellite Theatre covellitepresents.org		Ziply Fiber Presents: Youth Open Mic hosted by Peyton Waters	Last Tuesday of Each Month 6-9 PM	Free
		Clearwater Credit Union Presents: Wednesday Night Movies on the Big Screen	Every Wednesday 7:00 PM	Free
		302 Comedy & Butte Rats Comedy Present: Hard Rock Humor on the Richest Hill	Every Thursday 8:30 PM	Free
		The Historic M&M and Covellite Presents: Music On Main	Thursdays This Summer 6-9 PM	Free
		Uptown Butte Artwalk Reception	First Fridays 5-8 PM	Free
		New Featured Monthly Artist on Display in the Uptown Lounge, & Artist Reception	Monthly All Month	Free
		It Seemed Funny At The Time: 1990s Los Angeles Psychedelic Noir w/ Dark Sevier	Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 8:00 PM	$15/$25
		Drink & Draw End-Of-Season Group Art Showcase Reception	Friday, April 4th, 2025 5-7 PM	Free
		Tell Us Something: Careful What You Wish For	Friday, April 4th, 2025 7:30 PM	$15/$25
		MT Kush & 51 Below Speakeasy Present: Boot Juice	Saturday, April 5th, 2025 8:00 PM	$8/$15
		MT Dept of Commerce Presents: Covellite International Film Festival 2025	April 10th-13th, 2025 daily	Free
		CIFF & 302 Comedy Presents: Comedy Gold ft. Hunter Lloyd	Saturday, April 12th, 2025 matinee	TBA
		CIFF Presents: Rocket To Uranus	Saturday, April 12th, 2025 evening	TBA
		CIFF & Whitehall Theatrics Presents: "I Don't Want To Talk About It"	Sunday, April 13th, 2025 1:00 PM	TBA
		Aladair Fraser & Natalie Haas	Friday, April 18th, 2025 8:00 PM	$30/$35
		The Timber Rattlers & Spruce Alley Sally	Saturday, April 19th, 2025 8:00 PM	$8/$15
		Simple Machines & Gear Ratios with Raven 3D Printing & Design	Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 5-7 PM	FREE (pre-register)
		Dano Simpson	Thursday, April 24th, 2025 8:00 PM	$15/$20
		BMX: The Butte Music Xperience	Friday, April 25th, 2025 7:00 PM	$10 ($5 for 18 & under)
		Goners UK w/ Switch Off Safety & MEETINGHOUSE	Saturday, April 26th, 2025 8:00 PM	$8/$15

Covellite Theatre covellitepresents.org		Butte Auto Presents: Social Dance Lesson and Platinum Street Jazz	Friday, May 2nd 2025 7:00 PM	free
		Cold Chocolate	Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 8:00 PM	$12/$20
		2nd Annual Star Wars Day Festival	Sunday, May 4th, 2025 all day	FREE
		An Evening with Roy Ivy	Friday, May 9th, 2025 8:00 PM	TBA
		302 Comedy Presents: Comedy Gold	Saturday, May 10th, 2025 8:00 PM	$12/$20
		Beach Bear Presents: Icarus w/ Petrobike & Shadetree	Friday, May 16th, 2025 8:00 PM	$8/$15
		710 Ashbury: Grateful Dead Tribute	Saturday, May 17th, 2025 7:00 PM	$8/$15
		Sgt. Splendor	Friday, May 23rd, 2025 8:00 PM	$12/$20
		Lost Canyons w/ Kyle Hunter & Jacob Rountree	Saturday, May 24th, 2025 8:00 PM	$8/$15
		302 Comedy Presents: Friday Night Fustercluck	Friday, May 30th, 2025 8:00 PM	$12/$20
		Illin' Degenerates w/ 2Dolla Will, LOUD, AR.0	Saturday, May 31st, 2025 9:00 PM	$15
		Naomi Moon Seattle Sextet	Saturday, June 7th, 2025 8:00 PM	$13/$20
		Jeffrey Foucault	Friday, June 13th, 2025 8:00 PM	$18/$25
		Orphan Girl Children's Theatre Presents: Annual TEN24 Play Festival	Saturday, June 14th, 2025 all day	various
		The Hardy Bucks Tour: 3 Bucks Left & 2BigLugs (Adam Kelly) w/ Me & Thee	Friday, June 20th, 2025 8:00 PM	$18/$25
		302 Comedy Presents: Comedy Gold ft. TK Moyer	Saturday, June 21st, 2025 8:00 PM	$12/$20

CHINOOK

Chinook Eagles mtactors.com/shows-events/		The Foal Monty	April 11 & 12 6:00 PM	$40+

COLUMBUS

Columbus Community Congregational Church baroquemusicmontana.org		The Thistle	June 22 4:00 PM	Donation

EMIGRANT

Old Saloon oldsaloonmt.com/events/		Jamey Johnson	June 26 6:00 PM	$50

EUREKA

Eureka High School Auditorium sunburstarts.org/events/duenda-libre		Duende Libre Concert	April 2 7:00 PM & 3:00 PM	Free

GREAT FALLS

The Historic Mansfield Theater greatfallsmt.net		Sheherezade	April 5 7:30 PM	$14+
		Hotel California	April 11 7:30 PM	$39+
		Sturniolo Triplets Surprise Party Tour	April 23 8:30 PM	$49+
		Sing us a Song - Piano Man 2025	May 5 7:30 PM	$15+
		Winter Dance Party	May 7 7:30 PM	$39+

The Historic Mansfield Theater greatfallsmt.net	♫	Mahler 2	May 10 7:30 PM	$14+
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art the-square.org/events/	🖼	Closing Reception: Maggy Rozycki Hiltner, Installation & Superfun(d)	April 11 5:30 PM	Free
	🖼	Art Quilts with Maggy Rozycki Hiltner: Intuitive Raw-Edge Appliqué and Embroidery Collage Workshop	April 12 9:30 AM	$100
	🖼	Exhibition Reception & Artist Talk feat. Janina Myronova	May 2 5:30 PM	Free
	🖼	Exhibiting Artist Workshop w/Janina Myronova (Exact Times TBA)	May 3 9:00 AM	TBA
The Newberry thenewberrymt.com/event/	🖼	Gala for the Arts	May 17 6:00 PM	TBA
	♫	Casey Donahew	April 2 7:30 PM	$31.50+
	♫	Vixen	April 10 7:30 PM	$36+
	♫	Jeremy McComb-Honky Tonk Circus	April 11 7:30 PM	$22.50+
	♫	Signs of the Swarm	April 22 7:00 PM	$22.50+
	!	Josh Blue	April 25 9:00 PM	$36+
	♫	Yelawolf	April 26 7:30 PM	$44.10+
	♫	Jim Messina	April 27 7:30 PM	$43.20+
	♫	The Devil Wears Prada with Erra	April 29 7:00 PM	$36+
	!	Matt Braunger & Kyle Kinane	May 9 9:00 PM	$40.50+
	♫	Lacuna Coil	May 13 7:00 PM	$34.20+
	♫	Glitterfox	May 18 7:30 PM	$20
	♫	JJ Grey & Mofro	June 19 8:00 PM	$55.50+
	♫	Downtown Summer Jam Presents Hayden Coffman	June 25 6:30 PM	TBA
Great Falls College mtactors.com/shows-events/	🎭	The Foal Monty	April 18 7:00 PM	$12+

HAMILTON

Hamilton Performing Arts Center bitterrootperformingarts.org	♫	Shemekia Copeland	April 12 8:00 PM	$45+

HAVRE

Havre High School mtactors.com/shows-events/	🎭	Oliver	April 3-5 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
MSUN/MAT Theatre mtactors.com/shows-events/	🎭	The Prisoner of Second Avenue	April 25, 26, May 1-3, 8-10 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
Eagles Campground Beaver Creek Park mtactors.com/shows-events/	🎭	The Complete Works of William Shakespeare	June 20-22 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM	Free

HELENA

Frances Senska Center archiebray.org/events/	🖼	Artist Amplified	April 10 5:30 PM	Free
	🖼	Speaking of Pots	April 27 2:00 PM	Free
	🖼	Artist Amplified	May 8 5:30 PM	Free
Archie Bray Gallery archiebray.org/events/	!	Pots and Plants Sale	May 10 10:00 AM	Free
Frances Senska Center archiebray.org/events/	🖼	Speaking of Pots	May 18 2:00 PM	Free
Holter Musuem of Art archiebray.org/events/	🖼	Holter Exhibition	Jun 6-Aug 3 Daily	Free
Bray Warehouse Gallery archiebray.org/events/	🖼	Resident Artist Exhibition	Jun 12-Aug 30 Daily	Free
Frances Senska Center archiebray.org/events/	🖼	Artist Amplified	June 12 5:30 PM	Free
Lewis & Clark Brewing Company lctaproom.com/shows	♫	Mike Killeen	April 3 7:00 PM	Free
Lewis & Clark Brewing Company lctaproom.com/shows	♫	Justin Case Band	April 5 8:00 PM	$5
	♫	Boot Juice & Blackwater Railroad Company	April 10 7:00 PM	$5
	♫	Babes in Canyon	April 17 7:00 PM	$5
	♫	710 Ashbury - Grateful Dead Tour	April 19 8:00 PM	$5
	♫	Cody Bartels	April 24 7:00 PM	$5
	♫	Ten Years Gone	April 25 8:00 PM	$5
	♫	The Waiting	April 26 8:00 PM	$10
	♫	Forest Sake	May 1 7:00 PM	Free
	♫	Ty Walker and the Humanoids	May 2 8:00 PM	$20+
Lewis and Clark Library lclibrary.libcal.com/event/13263664	📚	Teen Democracy Project	Tuesdays 4:00 PM	Free
	📚	Preschool Storytime	Wednesdays 10:30 AM	Free
	📚	Writers of the Roundtable	April 2 & May 7 4:00 PM	Free
	📚	Montana Historical Society Lecture Series	April 3, 17, May 1 & 15 6:30 PM	Free
	📚	Toddler Tales	Thursdays 10:30 AM	Free
	📚	Premier Book Group	Thursdays 6:30 PM	Free
	📚	Books and Babies	Mondays 10:30 AM	Free
	📚	Adults who Read YA	April 8 & May 13 6:30 PM	Free
	📚	Mystery Book Group	April 16 & May 21 6:30 PM	Free
	📚	Daytimes Book Group	April 17 & May 15 3:00 PM	Free
	🖼	Builders Club	April 3 & May 19 3:00 PM	Free
Downtown Helena lclibrary.libcal.com/event/13684819	🖼	Art Walk	May 9 4:00 PM	Free
The Myrna Loy themyrnaloy.com	♫	Duende Libre	April 3 7:30 PM	$30
	!	Ahren Belisle	April 10 7:30 PM	$20
	♫	Myrna's Night Out	April 18 6:00 PM	$80
	🎞	An Army of Women: Screening and Talkback	April 22 6:00 PM	Free
	🎞	Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival	April 25 7:00 PM	$25
	♫	Cold Chocolate	May 1 7:30 PM	$24

The Myrna Loy themyrnaloy.com		Luciane Dom	May 15 7:30 PM	$30
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church helenasymphony.org		Symphony Kids: Once Upon A Time	April 5 10:00 AM	Free
Helena Civic Center helenasymphony.org		Masterworks Concert VI: Beethoven's Emperor & Pictures at an Exhibition	May 3 7:30 PM	$22+
Broadwater Hotel helenasymphony.org		Benefit Concert: Masquerade!	June 21 5:30 PM	$150
The Holter Musuem of Art baroquemusicmontana.org		The Thistle	June 19 7:30 PM	$5+
Grandstreet Theatre grandstreettheatre.com		Lucky Stiff	April 11-27 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	$23+
Grandstreet Theatre grandstreettheatre.com		Junie B. Jones The Musical Jr.	May 30-June 8 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM	$23+

HELMVILLE

Mannix Ranch oldsaltco-op.com		Old Salt Festival	June 20-22 Daily	$89+

KALISPELL

Wachholz College Center wachholzcollegecenter.org		FVCC Faculty & Guests Artist Recital	April 1 7:00 PM	$5+
		Dance Elements presents Atmosphere	April 3-5 5:30 PM	$36+
		Netflix: The Making of Our Planet - Frozen Worlds	April 6 7:00 PM	$15+
		Hotel California - An Eagles Tribute Show	April 10 7:30 PM	$35+
		Dawes: Oh Brother Tour	April 25 7:30 PM	$44+
		Jim Messina	April 30 7:30 PM	$44+
		KT Tunstall	May 4 7:30 PM	$38.50+
		WCC Speaker Series: Dr. Abraham Verghese	May 5 7:30 PM	$49.50+
		FVCC Music Program Ensembles Concert	May 6 7:00 PM	$5+
		John Mueller's Winter Dance Party, a Buddy Holly Tribute	May 10 7:30 PM	$35+
		Champions of Magic	May 14 7:30 PM	$59.40+
		Wai Mizutani: Stories Through Songs	May 30 7:00 PM	$22+
		A Taste of Ireland - The Irish Music & Dance Sensation	May 31 7:30 PM	$41.80+
Glacier Museum of Art glacierartmuseum.org		New Artists 2025	April 11-May 1 7 Daily	Free
		Building Dynamic Pastel Paintings	May 9 & 10 Daily	$250
		Homeschool Art	April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 & 21 10:30 AM	$30
		After School Art	April 1, 22, 28, May 6 & 13 3:30 PM	$40
Northwest Montana History Museum nwmthistory.org		Home Sewn: Thread, Cloth, Needles, and Yarn	Weekdays 10 AM to 5 PM	$9
		Kalispell: Then and Now: Our Town from the Air	Weekdays 10 AM to 5 PM	$9

LIVINGSTON

The Blue Slipper Theatre blueslipper.org		Late, A Cowboy Song	May 9-11 & 16-18 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	$17+
The Blue Slipper Theatre blueslipper.org		Words and Music, Vol 2	May 30 7:00 PM	$20+
The Dulcie Theatre theshanecenter.org/all-events		Annual Spring Sip & Shop	April 4-6 Daily	$5
		Cat-Griz School of Music	April 6 3:00 PM	Free
		Stephanie Davis & Fred Newman	April 12 7:30 PM	Free
		Grease	May 2-4, 9-11 &15-18 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM	Free
		Summer Concert Series: The Fossils	June 5 5:00 PM	Free
		Summer Concert Series: John Roberts Y Pan Blanco	June 12 5:00 PM	Free
		Summer Concert Series: Tsunami Funk	June 19 5:00 PM	Free
		Summer Concert Series: Bo Depena Trio	June 26 5:00 PM	Free

MCLEOD

Camp Mimanagish drumbrothers.com		The Boulder River Rhythm Retreat	June 26-29 Daily	$564

MISSOULA

The Roxy wildlifefilms.org/		International Wildlife Film Festival	April 19-24 Various	TBD
The Clay Studio of Missoula theclaystudioofmissoula.org		Monday Open Instruction Pottery	March 31-June 2 2:00 PM	$340
		Tuesday Open Instruction Pottery	April 1-June 3 2:00 PM	$340
		Monday Beginning Pottery	March 31-June 2 6:00 PM	$340
		Tuesday Beginning Pottery	April 1-June 3 6:00 PM	$340
		Wednesday Continuing Pottery	April 2-June 4 6:00 PM	$340
		Thursday Beginning Pottery	April 3-June 5 10:00 AM	$340
		Thursday Soda Firing: Atmospheric Considerations	April 3-June 5 6:00 PM	$370
		Sunday Beginning Pottery	April 6-June 8 1:00 PM	$340
		Handbuilding; for the Figure and Vessel	April 6-June 8 5:00 PM	$340
		Sunday Workshop: Intro to Firing the Small Wood Kiln	April 6-May 29 10:00 AM	$355
		Special Workshop: Small Wood Kiln, Guided Firing Only	April 13-May 22 10:00 AM	$315
University Center Ballroom theclaystudioofmissoula.org		Potsketch 2025	April 26 5:30 PM	$85+
Radius Gallery radiusgallery.com/exhibitions/		Stella Nall, Monica Gilles-BringsYellow, Aspen Decker	April 25-June 7 Daily	Free
		Deb Schwartzkopf	April 11-May 24 Daily	Free
		Ceramics Invitational	May 30-July 5 Daily	Free
		R. David Wilson, Maggy Rozycki Hiltner, Molly Murphy-Adams	June 13-July 19 Daily	Free
Missoula Art Museum missoulaartmuseum.org/events		First Friday: Jason Elliot Clark	April 4 5:00 PM	Free
		Slow Art Day	April 5 10:00 AM	Free
		Art in the Moment: Good Relations	April 7 , 21 1:30 PM	Free

Missoula Art Museum missoulaartmuseum.org/events		After School Art Adventure	April 8-May 13 3:45 PM	$63+
		Book Reading with Heid E. Erdrich	April 11 7:00 PM	Free
		Late Thursdays: Artist Talk with Dana Boussard	April 17 5:00 PM	Free
		Restoring the Prairie	April 23 5:00 PM	Free
		Raptors & Art Summer Camp	June 16-20 10:00 AM	$100+
		Sculpture Art Camp	June 23-27 9:00 AM	$100+
KettleHouse Amphitheater logjampresents.com		Brad Paisley	May 22 8:00 PM	$49.50+
		Lord Huron	May 25 & 26 8:00 PM	$37+
		The Black Keys	May 29 8:00 PM	$44.50+
		Whiskey Myers	June 10 7:30 PM	$44.50+
		St. Paul & The Broken Bones and The Wood Brothers	June 14 7:00 PM	$38+
		Little Feat & Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	June 24 8:00 PM	$39+
Top Hat logjampresents.com		The Dead & Down	April 4 10:15 PM	Free
		Boot Juice	April 11 10:15 PM	Free
		AJ Lee & Blue Summit	April 18 10:15 PM	Free
		Left On Tenth	April 26 10:15 PM	Free
		Never Come Down	May 2 10:15 PM	Free
		Flash Panda	May 9 10:15 PM	Free
		Ivanoff & Lumin	May 16 10:15 PM	Free
The Wilma logjampresents.com		Sarah Colonna	April 3 8:00 PM	$25+
		Champagne Drip	April 4 8:00 PM	$20+
		Ritual Mountain Bike Film Tour	April 10 7:00 PM	$25+
		Tophouse	April 12 8:00 PM	$25+
		Jim Messina & The Road Runners	April 26 8:00 PM	$40+
		Bruce Cockburn	April 29 8:00 PM	$40+
		The Martin Sexton Abbey Road Show	April 30 8:00 PM	$35
		Dirtwire	May 2 8:00 PM	$27+
		Tiffany Haddish	May 3 8:00 PM	$35+
		Yelawolf	May 4 8:00 PM	$35+
		Victor Wooten & The Wooten Brothers	May 7 8:00 PM	$30+
		Steel Pulse	May 14 8:00 PM	$35+
		Seether	May 16 8:00 PM	$37+
The Wilma logjampresents.com		Cradle of Filth	May 17 8:00 PM	$32+
		Hippie Sabotage	May 20 8:00 PM	$37
Missoula Children's Theatre mctinc.org/event/		Cinderella Ball	April 12 7:00 PM	$102
		Cinderella	April 24-May 11 2:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM	$27+
		The Little Mermaid Day Camp	June 9-13 Daily	$300
		The Little Mermaid	June 13, Jul 3 & 25 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	$12
		Gulliver's Travels Day Camp	June 16-20 Daily	$300
		Gulliver's Travels	June 20, July 11 & Aug 1 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	$12
		The Emperor's New Clothes Day Camp	June 23-27 Daily	$300
		The Emperor's New Clothes	June 2 & July 18 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM	$12
George & Jane Dennison Theatre missoulasymphony.org		Verdi's Requiem	April 12-13 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	$22+
		Broadway A To Z, ABBA to Les Miz!	May 17-18 7:30 PM & 3:00 PM	$22+
Holiday Inn Downtown missoulasymphony.org		Speakeasy Symphony	June 13 5:30 PM	$125
Zootown Arts Community Center zootownarts.org		Painting II	March 24-April 21 4:00 PM	$145
		Digital Illustration for Teens	March 25-April 22 4:00 PM	$145
		The Clay Vessel	March 25-April 22 4:00 PM	$145
		Homeschool Art Camp	March 26-April 16 9:00 AM	$45+
		Open Studio for Kids!	March 26-April 23 4:00 PM	$30+
		Hooray for Clay Camp	March 2-April 24 3:00 PM	$145
		Stop Motion Animation II	April 29-June 3 4:00 PM	$175
		Zine Making	April 29-June 3 4:00 PM	$175
		Comics Class, Ages 9-17	April 30-June 4 4:00 PM	$175
		Puppets!	May 1-June 5 3:00 PM	$175
		Drawing Extravaganza (Bigs)	June 16-20 9:00 AM	$175
		Drawing Extravaganza (Littles)	June 16-20 9:00 AM	$175
		Mosaic Mayhem!	June 16-20 1:00 PM	$175
		Costumes and Characters	June 23-27 9:00 AM	$175
		Pocket Pets and Friends	June 23-27 9:00 AM	$175
		Community 3D Design and Building	June 23-27 10:00 AM	$325
		Girls Rock Camp	June 23-27 10:00 AM	$325
		Hooray for Clay Camp (Bigs)	June 23-27 1:00 PM	$175
		Hooray for Clay Camp (Littles)	June 23-27 1:00 PM	$175

Zootown Arts Community Center zootownarts.org		In Pieces: A New Musical	April 3-6 7:30 PM	$12+
Masquer Theatre umt.edu/theatre-dance/		Metamorphoses	April 3-6, 10-13 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
Montana Theatre umt.edu/theatre-dance/		Dance in Concert	April 24-26 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$12+
Elks Lodge missoulafolk.org/		Contra Dance	April 5 7:30 PM	$5+
		Swing & Social Dance Party	April 15 & 29 6:30 PM	$5+
Caras Park handmademontana.com		Missoula Summer MADE Fair	June 22 10:00 AM	Free
Missoula Public Library missoulapubliclibrary.org		Tiny Tales at Empower Place	Tuesdays 11:45 AM	Free
		Preschool STEM Building	Wednesdays 11:00 AM	Free
		Tiny Tales	Thursdays & Fridays 10:30 AM	Free
		Dream Bigger Teen After School Program	Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00 PM	Free
		Middle School Writers Group	Wednesdays 3:00 PM	Free
		Big Sky Writers' Group	Wednesdays 4:30 PM	Free
		Symphony Kids	April 9 4:30 PM	Free
		Art with a Purpose	Fridays 11:00 AM	Free
		Watercolor Painting Class	Fridays 12:00 PM	Free
		Yarns	Fridays 12:00 PM	Free
		Young Adult Writers Group	Fridays 3:30 PM	Free

RED LODGE

Red Lodge facebook.com/RedLodgeArtWalk/events		Red Lodge Art Walk	Second Saturdays 11:00 AM	Free
Downtown Red Lodge redlodgesongwriterfestival.org/		Red Lodge Songwriters Festival	June 19-21 Daily	$25+

RINGLING

Ringling Church baroquemusicmontana.org		The Thistle	June 21 6:30 PM	$5+

RONAN

Ronan Performing Arts Center missionvalleylive.com		The Jazz Legacy Project	April 11 7:00 PM	$15
		Repertory Dance Theater	May 16 7:00 PM	$15

STEVENSVILLE

Stevensville Playhouse stevensvilleplayhouse.org/		A Dog's Life	April18-20 & 25-27 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$13.50+
		don't u luv me?	May 16-18 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	$13.50+

VIRGINIA CITY

The Elling House baroquemusicmontana.org		Chautauqua	April 19 7:30 PM	Donation
		Chris La Tray	April 26 7:00 PM	Donation
The Elling House baroquemusicmontana.org		Mary Jane Bradbury: Evelyn Cameron - Pluck & Stamina	May 10 7:00 PM	Donation
		Membership Meeting - Music by August Witham	May 17 3:00 PM	
		The Thistle	June 21 1:00 PM	$5+

WHITEFISH

Whitefish Performing Arts Center atpwhitefish.org/education		ATP Academy Master Classes	April 5 12:00 PM	$99
Whitefish Theatre Co whitefishtheatreco.org		Lend Me A Tenor	April 11-13, 17-19 7:30 PM & 4:00 PM	$10+
		Luca Stricagnoli	April 25 7:30 PM	$10+
		Collision of Rhythm	May 1 7:30 PM	$20
		The Baby Shower	May 30-June 1 7:30 PM & 4:00 PM	$10+
		The Music of ABBA	June 27 8:00 PM	$35
Winifred High School mtactors.com/shows-events/		The Foal Monty	April 5 6:00 PM	$12+

Art Art & Music Cultural Dance Film Literary Misc. Music Theatre

STATE OF THE ARTS

Spring 2025 MAC

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THIS ISSUE:

Jennifer Pulchinski wrangling found barbed wire to make into powerful yet elegant sculptures.